360 Night Market aims to be a 'unique local venue' » PAGE 2

Customs, postal service ink pact vs drug trafficking. » PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 31 | FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2015 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

Settlement eyed in Hunter's OGA suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Private citizen Glen Hunter, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and some lawmakers are in talks to possibly settle Hunter's Open Government Act lawsuit over the enactment of the Saipan casino law.

Hunter's counsel, Jennifer Dockter, and assistant attorney general David Lochabay, counsel for Torres, told Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman yesterday about the parties' settlement discussions.

Dockter said the parties will submit a possible settlement agreement in two weeks.

This prompted Wiseman to reset the hearing on Torres' motion for a protec-

See HUNTER on Page 4

FHB: Saipan sales volume up 10.46 pct.

First Hawaiian Bank's 2014 fourth quarter Business Activity Report for Saipan showed a 10.46-percent increase for "same store sales" in the same period in 2013, according to Laura Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and CNMI region manager.

» 12th consecutive quarter of positive growth

This was the twelfth consecutive quarter of positive growth since the first quarter of 2012. For the year, overall credit and debit card sales were up by 10.52 percent.

"For 2014 overall, 10 out of 11 sectors made positive gains with eight of the 11 sectors posting double digit increases," said Dacanay. "Hotels topped the list for fourth quarter 2014 for the first time since second quarter [of] 2013. The sectors finished the year strongly with positive gains made by all 11 sectors in the fourth quarter 2014. These are all good indications that consumer confidence has returned, further adding momentum to the economic recovery."

The BAR tracks card sales activity in 11 different economic sectors including retail, hotels, home improvement, restaurants, shipping and travel activities, among others.

See FHB on Page 4

ROSELYN MONROYO

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, center, along with executive director Tony Rogolifoi and secretary Rose Igitol display the scratch card lottery tickets that are being sold in various Saipan stores.

Scratch card lottery launched to support NMI sports programs

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Additional funding for the Northern Marianas Sports Association is expected to start coming in with the launch of the scratch card lottery system in various stores on Saipan.

The soft launch of the scratch card lottery was done two weeks ago and NMSA is urging the public to support their fundraising activity that would support their daily operations and various programs in the CNMI.

NMSA, since becoming an independent and private group in 2013, is allowed to operate a public lottery system as stated in Public Law 18-49 and as defined in Section 9301 of Title 1 of the Commonwealth Code.

Aside from operating the public lottery system, NMSA's funds would come from fees for use of sports facilities, and awarding of vending and advertising rights.

Steve Gibson, representative of Pacific Lotteries Ltd. of Australia, is on Saipan to assist NMSA with the fundraising project and is looking for a person who would be trained to manage the lottery system.

See LOTTERY on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Four restaurants are recognized for serving healthy foods.
» PAGE 8

WORLD
Most of the more than 270 girls snatched by Boko Haram are still missing.
» PAGE 20

SCIENCE & TECH
Driverless cars are hitting Britain's public roads for the first time.
» PAGE 22

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

SAMSUNG
Auto
YOU + Valentine's
Share the love!
Buy any select Galaxy smartphone and receive the second one for FREE!
SAMSUNG GALAXY S3 $49
SAMSUNG GALAXY S4 $149
SAMSUNG GALAXY S5 $399
SAMSUNG NOTE 3 $399
SAMSUNG NOTE 4 $499
docomo pacific
Better Together
24-month Clear Unlimited plan agreement required per unit. Both phones must be of equal value. Some conditions apply. While supplies last. Offer valid until February 14, 2015.
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com

360 Night Market aims to be a 'unique local venue'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents and tourists alike will now have another place to go for food and local crafts and entertainment, with the new "360 Night Market" set to open at Marianas Business Plaza on Tuesday and Sunday, from 6pm to 10pm.

Eric Van der Maas, who owns Marianas Business Plaza, told *Saipan Tribune* that the market will give tourists and residents alike an option to do their shopping at night.

The market may also become another opportunity for local vendors and artists to show what they can offer tourists, he said.

Right now, there are 20 vendors set to join the opening night, with more invited to join. These vendors range from food, to arts, souvenirs, plants, and clothing.

The new night market, set under MBL's solar-paneled roofs, is part of Van Der Maas' dream of one day having a venue for local vendors making local products solely from local materials.

He showed *Saipan Tribune* a list he put together on his smartphone of all the assortment of items he believe Saipan can produce, package, and make popular among tourists.

He listed *apigigi*, local fish, Saipan-made ice cream, juicer, *finadeni*, coconuts, oil, Marianas chocolate, smoked fish, noni, soursop, papaya leaf, local art, sugar cane juice, washing powders, coco flour, hot pepper, sea salt, shampoo, soursop wine, and sweet potato flower as some of his ideas.

"There are so many things we can make here out of locally found products," he said. "If we can educate the public that they can do this and make money and earn tourist dollars—that is the future of Saipan."

The more money that is spent here, the better, he added.

Van Der Maas is looking for vendors with good products who they can work with to package it for tourists.

If packaged right, he said, a product has added value, and with a little bit of luck, a client may build a base of tourists who remember the unique product they got from the island of Saipan.

Plus, with the use the Internet, he said, these products can be ordered and re-ordered.

"Now we have a venue where the opportunity is there. I hope we have young people who will look and say 'Wow, I can do this, I can make this—and I can sell it,' to the local population and the tourists," he said.

Van Der Maas said he would like to see a little more local arts and crafts, adding that he hopes the night market will become a mix of the Flame Tree Arts Festival and Thursday Night Market.

He believes a market like this can make a great example out of Saipan for the many tourists who come here.

"For tourists, it leaves a great memory, because they don't come here to get something from China—they come from China," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free medical mission on Sunday

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch) will be conducting a free medical mission on Feb. 15, Sunday, from 3pm to 6pm, at the Kilili Beach (Minatchom Atdao Pavillion). There will also be free massage, facial, haircut, snacks, giveaways, and counseling/prayers. For more information, contact Pastor Claire Javillonour at 789-7566. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting on Feb. 17

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org or ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

Customs, postal service ink pact vs drug trafficking

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Division of Customs and the U.S Postal Service signed Thursday a memorandum of understanding to further beef up efforts to combat drug trafficking in the Commonwealth.

The key element of the agreement is to allow CNMI Customs agents to inspect and search packages coming in and out of the U.S Post Office in the Commonwealth.

The agreement will also allow CNMI Customs agents and the U.S Postal Inspection Office to work together on drug trafficking investigations and share information as well as intelligence and aid.

This was not the arrangement between the two agencies before the MOU was broached in 2013.

Drug trafficking and drug abuse have been an issue in the Commonwealth, according to U.S Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco.

Limtiaco said the signing of the MOU is "very significant" as it will "unite the resources" of the CNMI Customs and the U.S Postal Service to combat drug trafficking.

According to Michael Puralweski, resident agent in charge of the DEA in Guam, drug trafficking continues to be a problem in the CNMI and the drug of choice is "ice" or methamphetamine.

Puralweski said the drug problem is "fairly large" because the CNMI has "tighter knit communities."

The MOU does not mean efforts are being focused only on the postal service, Puralweski said. The signing is a part of the campaign against drugs that will also involve other agencies such as the U.S Coast Guard, he added.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said the agreement "is very important, because CNMI Customs agents can now conduct inspections with the aid of their K9 units" for drugs and other contraband materials inside the U.S Post Office, which is a federal building.

The U.S Attorney and several federal offices including the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Internal Revenues Service/Criminal Investigation Division, and U.S Department of Homeland Security were on hand during the signing of the MOU. ***(Joel D. Pinaroc)***

Rotary McFun Run next Saturday

The Saipan Rotary Club and McDonald's Saipan are hosting a 5K and 10K Rotary McFun Run at Micro Beach next Saturday, Feb. 21.

The run will start and end at Micro Beach in Garapan and registration starts at 5:30am, while the race kicks off at 6am.

Registration is $10 for students up to 17 years of age and $15 for adults. Registration fees include T-shirt, refreshments, and prizes for top finishers.

Marcia E. Ayuyu, Rotary Club community services director and McDonald's Saipan owner, said Tuesday during their weekly meeting that they have participants already registered and registration is still ongoing.

Ayuyu said it is the 47th year of the club and her company will sponsor 47 students from different schools to take part in the fun run.

The 5K race will start at Micro Beach toward 13 Fishermen's Memorial and back, while the 10K race will start at Micro Beach to Char's Mart and back.

Forms are available at McDonald's Middle Road and Garapan outlets. Forms and payments must be submitted to the McDonald's Saipan office at the RJ Building in Dandan.

For more information, call Reina Camacho at 989-7346. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

DPA CAR MART
We're buying '97 & Up used cars!
Transaction only within 30 mins.
Call 287-8688 or visit
DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

I ❤ MASSAGE
Special Promotion
$15.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
$25.00 Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes
Business Hours:
1:00PM – 12:00AM
Monday – Sunday
For more information, please
Call 234-9229 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe, Joeten Commercial Building or across World Resort

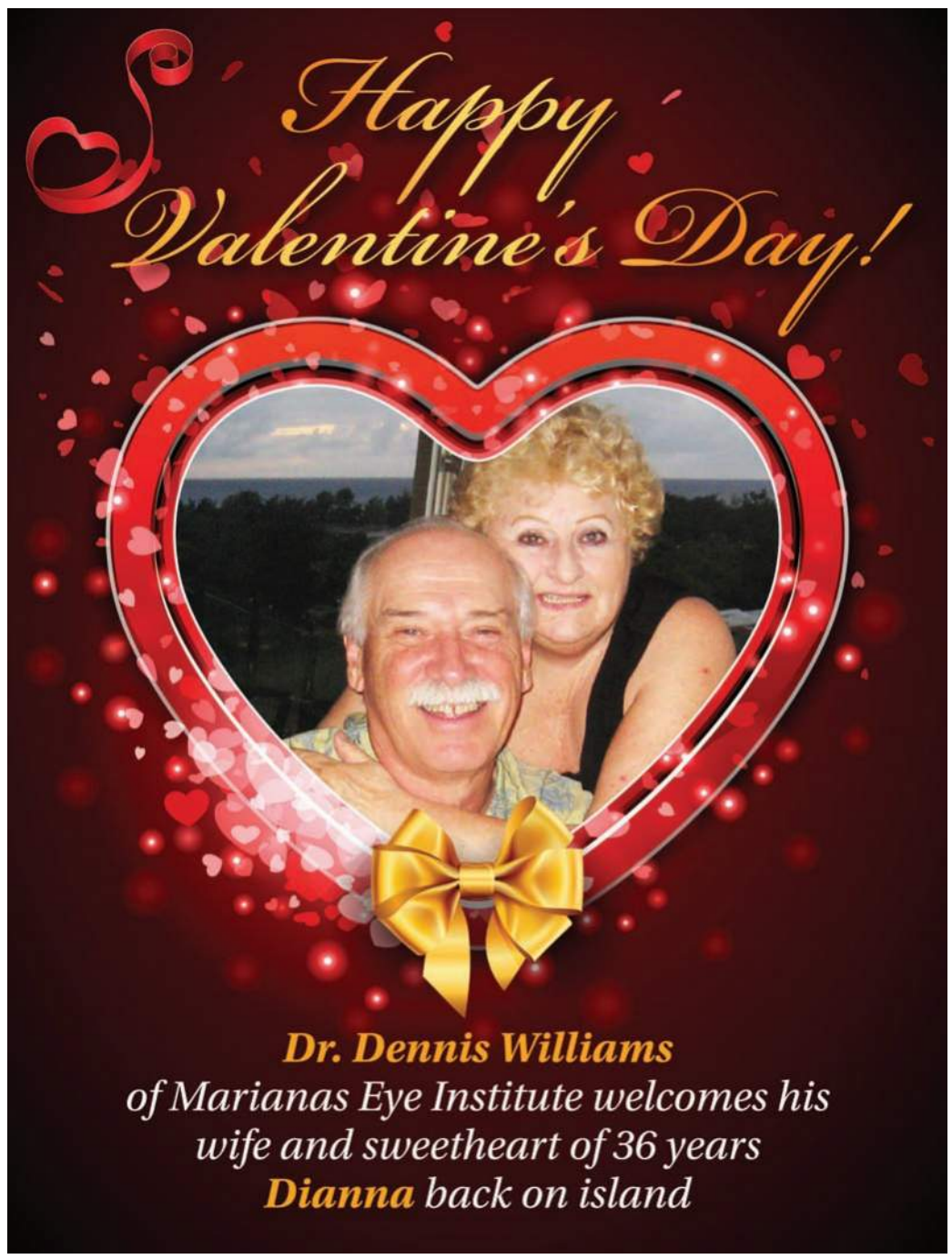
BW CAR RENTAL
NEW LOCATION
in GARAPAN, SUNLEADER BLDG.
Special Rate $100.00 for 3 days.
FREE Pick up and Drop off Service
287-2727
Mon. - Sun. • 9AM-9PM

ARMATECH
CCTV Security Cameras
For Residential,
Commercial, Hotels &
Industrial Applications.
Tel. No.: 234-8895/322-8895
Mobile: 287-5525 • Fax: 322-5525

Precision Medical Imaging and Good Samaritan Hospital is pleased to announce that Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC will be on Saipan from February 24 until February 26, 2015.
For appointments, please contact your physician. For more information, please contact Precision Medical Imaging at (670) 233-6000/6001
Precision Medical Imaging is very proud to be part of the growing and improving landscape of healthcare for the residents and visitors of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the rest of the Micronesian Region.
PMI is pleased to offer the following services:
- Computed Tomography (CT) Scanner
- Ultrasound
- Digital Mammography
- 2-D Echo for Adults and Pediatrics
PRECISION MEDICAL IMAGING, LLC
Visit our website at www.pmicnmi.com

Juan Carlos Quiros, MD, FACC
Cardiology
Good Samaritan Hospital Guam Office
Meet Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros, Cardiologist and Medical Director for Good Samaritan Hospital Guam Office bringing cardiovascular care excellence in the CNMI.

Wondering if your tax rebate of refund will be paid on time this year?
Need cash now? Stop worrying and stop here
Express Financial can lend you up to 70% of your verified tax rebate NOW.
NO CREDIT HISTORY NECESSARY.
As long as you have the verifiable source of income with the ability to make the payments, Express Financial will lend against your tax returns.
Perhaps it's not a tax refund loan you are looking for; Express Financial has plenty of cash and make loans for all your financial needs with the fastest service on island. Express Financial can get you the cash you want for your summer fix-up projects or taking that long awaited family vacation. Come in to see us TODAY or give us a call and we can take your application right over the phone. Our job is to help you succeed financially. Express Financial located at the corner of Middle Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road. PH-670-235-6032
Express Financial loans are as easy as 1-2-3
Choose any of these 3 convenient options to apply!
#1 Call us direct at 670-235-6032 and our friendly local staff will be happy to take your application over the phone.
#2 Fill out the attached application and fax to 670-235-6040 and we will call you within a few minutes of receiving the fax.
#3 Fill out the attached application, scan and email to cccar6985users@carfinancial.com and a friendly member of our sales team will call you.
EXPRESS FINANCIAL is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs.
Helping you succeed financially is our top priority.
In most cases we can get the cash in your hands the same day we receive your application.
QUICK APPLICATION
Primary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ___ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ (Best Time To Call) _____ (Best Number To Call)
Secondary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ___ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ (Best Time To Call) _____ (Best Number To Call)
Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____
EXPRESS
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road,
San Jose Village
Phone: (670) 235-6032
Fax: (670) 235-6040


Happy Valentine's Day!
Dr. Dennis Williams
of Marianas Eye Institute welcomes his wife and sweetheart of 36 years
Dianna back on island

LOTTERY

From Page 1

"I'm just here for a couple of months to help push NMSA's fundraising project for the benefit of the youth and sports facilities. We're also looking for an honest person that would oversee things, preferably someone who could converse with Chinese and Korean store owners," Gibson told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said a total of 16,300 tickets have already been sold since the soft launch of the scratch card lottery system two weeks ago.

"It was an overwhelming response from the public. A lot of stores even ran out of tickets and that is why we have to deliver more. We're happy with the result and it would start bringing in funds for NMSA," added Gibson.

He said the scratch card tickets, which are printed in a high-security facility in Sri Lanka, will be initially sold on Saipan only, with plans of including Tinian and Rota at a later time.

"We're starting on Saipan but there are plans of bringing it to Tinian and Rota to make it CNMI-wide. It will take some time to get it across there and train personnel that will handle the lottery system."

NMSA president Michael White said now is the right time to operate the lottery scratch card system since the CNMI is set to compete in several off-island sporting events this year.

"The funds that would be collected would subsidize the CNMI team's travels to off-island competitions, especially the Pacific Games this July in Papua New Guinea," said White.

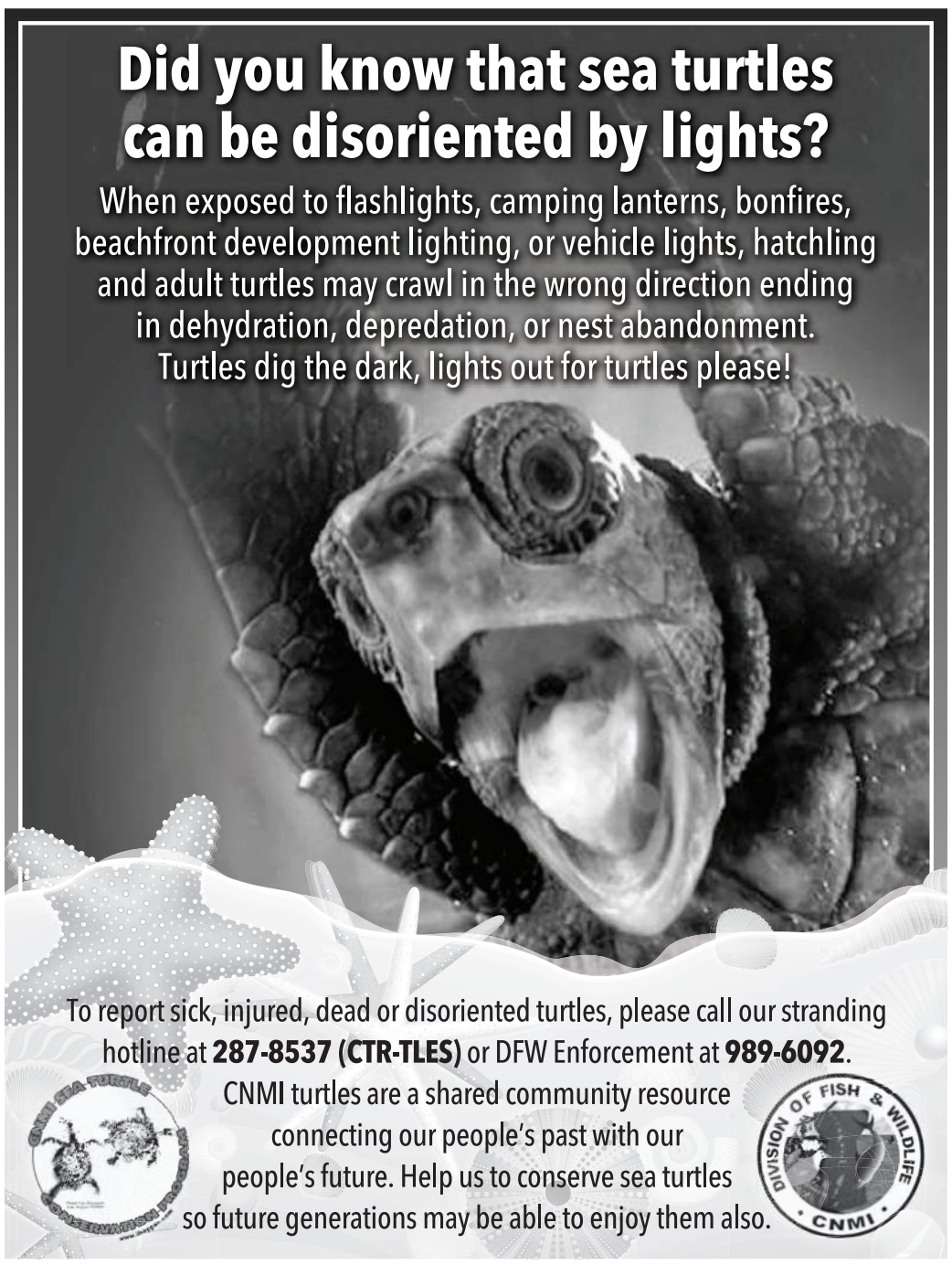
The scratch cards come in four different types: Hafa Adai, Lucky 7s, Quick Cash, and Tropical Treasure.

Scratch card players could win $5, $20, $50, and $100 instantly, which can be redeemed from the retail outlet. Pacific Lotteries officials will come to Saipan if someone wins the $1,000 jackpot prize to verify the ticket and award the person the cash prize.

This practice of sports governing bodies getting funds from revenues collected in bingo, casino, lottery, sweepstakes, and other games of chance is not new as Australia, Guam, the Philippines, and several other countries do the same.

In the Philippines, its government alone allots 5 percent of the income generated by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., from the casinos it operates to finance the country's sports development programs.

Some of the stores that sell the scratch card lottery tickets are Han Nam Supermarket in Koblerville, Twins Market and Lucky De Mart in Dandan, Kevin's Mart in Susupe, Green Consume on Middle Road, Twins in Lower Navy Hill, New XO Market in Gualo Rai, Blue Sky Supermarket in Chalan Piao, and Dolphin Wholesale in San Jose.


Did you know that sea turtles can be disoriented by lights?
When exposed to flashlights, camping lanterns, bonfires, beachfront development lighting, or vehicle lights, hatchling and adult turtles may crawl in the wrong direction ending in dehydration, depredation, or nest abandonment.
Turtles dig the dark, lights out for turtles please!
To report sick, injured, dead or disoriented turtles, please call our stranding hotline at 287-8537 (CTR-TLES) or DFW Enforcement at 989-6092.
CNMI turtles are a shared community resource connecting our people's past with our people's future. Help us to conserve sea turtles so future generations may be able to enjoy them also.
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
CNMI

FHB

From Page 1

First Hawaiian is a major card processor of debit and credit sales transactions. In 2014, the bank processed over $4.7 billion worth of customer credit and debit sales transactions. The bank provides merchant services to nearly 7,000 First Hawaiian Bank merchant locations throughout Hawaii, Guam, CNMI and the U.S. Mainland.

First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) with total assets of $18.1 billion was founded in 1858 and has been serving the CNMI region for over 17 years. The bank processes all major U.S. credit cards as well as JCB, China Union Pay, and BC Global Card. ***(FHB)***

HUNTER

From Page 1

tive order to Feb. 25. The hearing was supposed to be held yesterday afternoon.

Hunter is suing the government, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Torres, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and two other lawmakers for allegedly violating the Open Government Act when they enacted the Saipan Casino Act without following the OGA's public notice provisions.

In an interview yesterday, Dockter said the defendants raised the idea of a settlement and that she and Hunter are open to settlement.

"Our entire purpose has been to force transparency and if we can talk settlement, that's always an idea. We never wanted to litigate this," Dockter said.

The lawyer said they hope the parties come to an agreement and settle on mutually acceptable terms.

"I believe that's possible. It's always been our hope," she said, adding that the settlement would be a matter of public knowledge.

"There is nothing that we would ever agree to keep secret. The entire purpose of this is transparency and openness. The settlement would be the same thing," Dockter said.

She said the lawsuit is not about trying to sue people, or a political party, or a political favor, or the casino.

"Contrary to I think [what] some people believe, it's not about casino. It's always been about transparency," she said.

Dockter said no matter how people feel about casinos or about a certain political party, everyone should be bothered by the manner in which the casino bill was passed.

She declined to go into the details of the settlement talks, saying she does not want to derail it or do anything that frustrates that purpose. "My client has always been very focused on transparency and if that's ultimately what we get, then we settle."

Lochabay refused to comment.

Torres, through Lochabay, filed the motion for protective order after appearing for his deposition in court last Jan. 29.

Lochabay said the transcript of the two-hour deposition makes it clear that Hunter, by counsel Dockter, is on an "impermissible fishing expedition seeking to rummage around in Torres' affairs in an effort to embarrass, disrupt and annoy."

A discovery dispute arose in the case after Lochabay advised Torres not to answer some of Dockter's questions regarding some lawmakers' Hong Kong trip in 2013 and 2014.

In Hunter's reply to the motion, Dockter said the deposition of Torres was not done in a manner showing bad faith or to embarrass, annoy, or oppress him.

Dockter also asked the court to impose sanctions on Lochabay, for his behavior at the deposition.

Torres, federal enforcers talk about Li's disappearance, murder of uncle

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres discussed yesterday with federal law enforcement officials efforts to combat drugs and crimes in the CNMI as well as the disappearance of storeowner Zhu Yuan Li and the murder of his uncle, Hai Ren Li.

Torres, in his statement, said coordination among the various law enforcement agencies in the CNMI, both federal and local, underscores the ongoing efforts to eradicate the presence of illegal drugs on the islands and the pursuit of justice for the families of victims of heinous crimes.

"There is no room on our islands for these crimes and the community should take comfort in knowing that justice in the CNMI knows no boundaries," said Torres, adding that the administration fully supports federal partners in this goal.

Matthew Deleon Guerrero, chief of staff of Lt. Gov. Torres, told *Saipan Tribune* that Torres met with federal law enforcement officials following the Law Enforcement Coordination Committee meeting yesterday in the Governor's Office conference room.

Torres met with U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI Alicia A. G. Limtiaco; Jeff Gaines of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Mark Yamanaka of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Anthony Galetti of the U.S. Postal Service; W.J. Borbett of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and Michael Puralewski of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Deleon Guerrero said they discussed the federal law enforcement's role in investigating the disappearance of Saipan Fresh Market owner Zhi Yuan Li and the murder of Li's uncle, Hai Ren Li.

Deleon Guerrero said they also talked about further efforts to curtail the spread of drugs in the CNMI.

Zhi Yuan Li, 43, was last seen on Jan. 17 at 11am, seeing a friend at an "accounting office" near a tire shop in Puerto Rico. His family reported his disappearance to police that day at 7:56pm.

The following morning, police recovered Zhi Yuan Li's Toyota Tacoma pickup truck abandoned on a dirt road between Ladder Beach and Obyan Beach.

A family member has offered a $50,000 cash reward to anyone that can provide information leading to the location of the storeowner.

Hai Ren Li and Cheng You Li, both Chinese farmers, were murdered and their bodies dumped at the old runway in Koblerville last November.

Hai Ren Li and Cheng You Li were last seen in the afternoon of Oct. 31, 2014, when they left their respective homes in As Lito and San Antonio to work at their farm in As Gonno between 12pm and 2:30pm.

On Nov. 1, part of a large group of Chinese community that helped in the search found Hai Ren Li's Toyota Tacoma under some *tangan-tangan* trees a few steps from the side of Magisa Drive in As Gonno.

Last Feb. 23, the bodies of farmers Guo Huang Xu and his wife, Qing Xiu Zheng, were found charred in their house that was burned to the ground. Police classified the case as a double homicide.

On Dec. 8, 2012, couple Jun Li Yang and Jing Liu was found murdered inside their home in San Vicente.

All these double homicides involving Chinese nationals remain unsolved.

Happy Massage
$20.00 1 hour Full Body with FREE Foot Bath
$20.00 1 hour Face Massage
Business Hours:
1:00PM - 2:00AM
Call: 989-6858
Located at Garapan, Behind Tony Romas

NEW PARADISE FLORIST
Valentine's Day
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS
OPTION A: 6 full bloom Roses with mini Roses in a basket
OPTION B: 6 Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in a Basket
OPTION C: 1 Dozen Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in Basket
We also have: Tulips Orchids Lucky Bamboo Fruit &Wine Basket Gift Basket Roses (Comes in Different Packaging) Chocolates Stuffed Toys HVD Balloons (Choices of Mylar or Latex)
To place your order, please call 233-9875 and look for Robert.
You can also visit our shop located in Middle Road, Gualo Rai across Shell Gas Station.
New Paradise Florist
MIDDLE ROAD

YOU COULD WIN AN XBOX360
When you pay your IT&E Bill on or before the 15th.
CLICK TO PAY NOW
www.ite.net
The fastest, safest, most convenient way to pay.
*Some Conditions Apply. Must Pay IT&E Bill Online in Full, Residential Customers ONLY. First Generation Xbox 360 (4GB)
CALL
Saipan 682-4ITE (4483)
Tinian 433-0210
Rota 532-3599
VISIT
Chalan LauLau
Wireless Express Center - TSL Building
IT&E CNMI www.ite.net
IT&E

Amigo's
Pizza & B.B.Q.
Quality Food. Great Price.
Daily Specials
2 Large Pizza (three toppings) $32.99
2 Medium Pizza (three toppings) $25.99
ALSO TRY OUR FAMOUS BBQ Set & Pasta
Lunch Special available from $7.50
OPEN DAILY: Lunch 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Dinner 5:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Tel. No. 233-7412

Air Force trains ARFF on how to be safe around F-16s

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting personnel got a firsthand look yesterday at two U.S. Air Force's F-16 fighter planes that could someday make emergency landings at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The two F-16's landing at the Saipan airport were part of the training exercise Cope North, according to Andersen Air Force Base Fire and Emergency Services chief of training Stanley Torres.

Torres said the training is designed to give CNMI firefighters a chance to learn about the aircraft and what to do should the fighter be forced down nearby.

The U.S Air Force came to Saipan to train CPA firefighting personnel on the safety hazards of F-16s. Last July, the Air Force came with an F-15.

"This time we're here with an F-16 and we're taking advantage of the exercise in the region for Cope North. …Last July we came here [but] we only had firefighters and maintenance crews and we're bringing emergency personnel to link up with CPA ports police and weapons safety," Torres said.

"What we're doing…[is] we train these firefighters to approach the aircraft in a safe manner, not to go in front of the intake and get sucked in. We train them on the weapons and pilots and how to get them out," he added.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Two F-16 fighter planes land at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday as part of the ongoing Cope North military exercise.

Air Force Lt. Mathew Park and the pilot of the other F-16 said they've been flying on an F-16 for two years now, about three to four times a week.

"If anything happens out there, we can land here and they can take care of us," Park said.

CPA-ARFF fire chief James Diaz said they wanted to take advantage of the ongoing Cope North exercise by having their personnel acclimated to the aircraft since the Saipan airport is a civilian airport and the alternate for any military aircraft.

"We want to make sure our guys are familiar with the types of aircraft coming in and if there is any incident runs for their aircraft, we can practically have an idea of what to do," Diaz said.

CPA-ARFF firefighter 1 Jesse Salas was pleased with the training.

"We're just learning how to rescue any pilot when there is any aircraft emergency or aircraft landing emergencies. They taught us how to identify areas for safety and precautions," he said.

Saipan's newest attraction, Sea Touch, is set to open Saturday

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sea Touch Saipan LLC, the first of its kind shark and stingray marine park project in the Commonwealth, is set to finally open.

The company, in its website said it is all set to open this February, although the company did not give a specific date. Local TV news program KSPN 2 reported, though, that Sea Touch will be open to the public this Saturday.

In November of last year, the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos gave the go-signal for Sea Touch Saipan LLC to build a $1.125-million shark and stingray marine park project at the beachfront of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Baldyga Group, which operates SandCastle at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, owns Sea Touch and has reportedly spent $275,000 for the project.

The Sea Touch agreement is a landmark deal since it is the first time the CNMI leased its submerged lands after President Barrack Obama reconveyed its 3-mile submerged lands back to the islands in 2013

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) said in an interview that he wants to see more projects like Sea Touch to be established in the Commonwealth in the hopes of drawing in more tourists.

The lawmaker said he is set to meet with officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority to know more of the tourism body's plans for the rest of the year.

"I just want to sit down with them [MVA officials] and see what they plan to do," Guerrero said, noting that he also wants to give recommendations to the tourism board.

The meeting with the MVA is set for Feb. 20 on Capital Hill.

777
Treasure
Island
Since 1994
20th Anniversary
Celebration Continues
February 6 - May 31, 2015
500 items to be given away. Everybody wins.
CRAFTSMAN
CRAFTSMAN
Use your Treasure Island VIP Player Loyalty Reward card
to play and get a chance to win awesome prizes
$10 redemption = 5 tickets
Bonus Points Card
Tel: (670) 233-5100
GIG DISCO
COUNTRY HOUSE RESTAURANT
MOBYDICK
TREASURE ISLAND GAME CLUB 1
COCONUT ST.
PASEO DE MARIANAS
TO JOETEN GARAPAN
BEACH ROAD
TO AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
You must be at least 18 years of age to enter Treasure Island Game Club and no alcohol is allowed on the premises.

302 families avail of NMHC housing voucher program

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of February this year, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has 302 families under its Housing Choice Voucher program.

A total of 282 beneficiaries are on Saipan, five are on Tinian, and 15 are on Rota, according to the report prepared by Brian Bocago, Housing and Low Income Tax Credit program special assistant.

Of the 282 families on Saipan, 275 are on island while seven were issued their vouchers on island but they chose to relocate to the U.S. mainland where the voucher program is also administered.

Compared to the January totals, the number of Saipan beneficiaries increased by eight in February, while Rota went down by one.

Bocago's report also shows that a total of 300 families are on the waiting list.

He said 295 are on Saipan and five are on Tinian.

Despite no increase in funding, NMHC still managed to issue the vouchers to 53 more families since Jan. 1, 2012, according to NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios.

"This remarkable action is attributed to proper and effective program and good fiscal practices," he said.

NMHC can only issue up to 363 vouchers. This program is only for those availing of privately owned scattered units that are part of the program and housing division of NMHC's Section 8 Housing Assistance Program.

This program assists families in paying for rent, equivalent to 30 percent of their adjusted income or 10 percent of their gross income, whichever is greater. Low-income families will be required to pay a minimum rent of $25 per month unless the family requests and qualifies for a waiver exemption for the minimum rent requirement.

It is a federal program that provides housing assistance to very low and low-income families through funding from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Copper wire thief gets 3 years in prison

Terwik A. Ludwig, a 41-year-old man who was accused together with a teacher of burglarizing a store's generator room and stealing copper wires, pleaded guilty in Superior Court and was slapped with a three-year prison term.

Ludwig pleaded guilty on Wednesday to burglary as part of a plea agreement. He also admitted to violating the terms of his probation in a 2010 criminal conviction.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Ludwig to five years in prison, all suspended except for two years, for burglary.

Ludwig was also sentenced to a year in prison for probation violation and was ordered to serve the sentence consecutively with his sentence in the burglary case.

This means Ludwig shall serve a total of three years in prison. He was given credit for time served in the burglary case.

After completing his sentence, Ludwig will be placed on five years of supervised probation. He was ordered to pay a $500 fine, plus probation costs, complete 200 hours of community service, and write a letter of apology to New Kagman Market.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Ludwig with burglary and theft and filed a petition to revoke his probation.

As part of the plea deal, the remaining charge of theft was dropped.

Ludwig entered the generator room of the New Kagman Market on Oct. 26, 2014, by removing panes from the window, with the intent to steal copper wires. This violated the conditions of his probation. Police said the stolen copper wires were worth over $1,600.

Ludwig's co-defendant, George Lieto Jr., a then-teacher at Chacha Oceanview Middle School, pleaded not guilty. His case is pending in court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Hafa Adai from PIC Saipan,
With high occupancy expected at PIC Saipan until the end of February 2015, we will be limiting the number of IP&E Day Guest passes accepted at PIC to one hundred (100) per day. The IP&E promotional coupons will be honored until Feb 28, 2015. If you are planning to use your IP&E passes, please be advised they will be honored on a first come, first served basis. No reservations will be accepted.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PIC Saipan Management

PHONE STORE
NEW LOCATION
We are now located in San Antonio, same building as TOHA Supermarket
10-30% OFF
on Selected Items
Many selections of Cellphone / IPAD / Tablet Accessories
Repair Service Available
Business Hours: 10:00AM – 8:00PM Monday – Saturday
12:30PM – 5:00PM Sundays • Call us at 234-6666

*Must be 18+ to purchase
NORTHERN MARIANAS SPORTS ASSOCIATION
INSTANT Scratchies
WIN UP TO
$1000
INSTANT CASH
PUT MORE FUN INTO YOUR DAY!
Get your tickets at these following locations:
Blue Sky Supermarket – Chalan Piao
Dolphin Wholesale – San Jose
Green Consume – As Lito
Han Nam Supermarket – Koblerville
Happy Market – As Lito
Kevin's Mart – Chalan Kanoa
LN Market – Chalan Kanoa
Lucky D Mart – Dan Dan
New XO Market – Middle Rd., Gualo Rai
San Antonio Mart – San Antonio
Twins Supermarket – Dan Dan
Twins Supermarket – Navy Hill/Puerto Rico
Get Your Scratchies NOW!

4 restaurants named 'Healthy Food Champions'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Division of Public Health's Non-Communicable Disease Bureau recognized yesterday four restaurants for serving healthy foods.

As part of the Healthy Restaurant Project, healthcare officials visited all four restaurants and presented their owners and food preparers with the "Healthy Food Champions" award.

Tropical Blendz took first place, The Shack took second place, while runners-up were Caravan and Everest Kitchen.

Tropical Blendz front supervisor and cashier Rossana de la Vega said she was speechless and thankful for the recognition. She said their best-selling items are their salads.

The Shack owner Glen Hunter said he was honored to receive the recognition on behalf of the restaurant.

"We're so happy to see that CHCC got into a program like this and accentuate healthy food and restaurants to provide healthier alternatives and it is a great step in trying to combat obesity," Hunter said.

Caravan owner Abed Younis was also happy to receive the award, noting that they only have healthy foods and have been offering healthy fare to their customers.

Everest Kitchen owner Laxmi Shrestha, who was also on hand to receive the award, said they serve all healthy foods and that people now have an alternative if they want healthy options.

CHCC REACH local project assistant Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, who is the program's coordinator, said that she and CHCC registered dietitian Kate Campbell worked together to make the final selection of the Healthy Food Champions. She said the program started a month ago.

"It's difficult to define 'healthy,' especially when scientific food analyses are impractical to use for this project," Neises-Mocanu said.

To select the Healthy Food Champions, they looked for restaurants that offer a healthy food environment, with sensible food portions, no sugar-sweetened beverages like soda, no alcohol, with fresh whole vegetables, fruits, and grains easily identifiable throughout the menu.

"Healthy food environments make it easy for patrons of these champion restaurants to make smart food choices," Neises-Mocanu said.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said the four restaurants were some of the top restaurants in the community that are making healthy choice the easy choice for residents.

NCD Bureau administrator Becky Robles said that in addition to core nutrition requirements for select menu items, restaurants can make small changes in their menus that would foster a healthier food environment.

More information on the Healthy Restaurant Project is being finalized and will soon be posted in the REACH website, reachcnmi.wix.com/reach. Restaurants or caterers interested in participating in the project are encouraged to sign up for updates through the website. Email Neises-Mocanu at kneisesm@hawaii.edu or contact her at (670) 286-8427.

Everest Kitchen Laxmi Shrestha receives the award from Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña as one of the runners-up for CHCC's Division of Public Health Non-Communicable Disease Bureau's healthy restaurant project.
JAYSON CAMACHO

Runner-up restaurant Caravan owner Abed Younis, second from left, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna, center, NCD Bureau administrator Becky Robles, far left, CHCC registered dietitian Kate Campbell, far right, CHCC Medical Director for Public Health Dr. Daniel Lamar, second from right, and DPH REACH local project assistant and restaurant project coordinator Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, third from right.
JAYSON CAMACHO

Tropical Blendz front supervisor Rossan De la Vega, front row, fourth from left, receives the first place award from CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña. Also in photo, from left to right, are DPH director Margaret Aldan, Tropical Blendz cook Arlene Mataleero, a customer of Tropical Blendz, Tropical Blendz waitress Ceianna Francine, CHCC registered dietitian Kate Campbell, REACH local project assistant and coordinator Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, CHCC medical director for Public Health Dr. Daniel Lamar, and NCD Bureau administrator Becky Robles.
JAYSON CAMACHO

The Shack wins second place in the healthy restaurant project. From left to right: The Shack's Moses Pedro, Randy Rosario, owner Glen Hunter, CHCC medical director for Public Health Dr. Daniel Lamar, The Shack owner Svetlana Hunter, REACH local project assistant Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, CHCC registered dietitian Kate Campbell, DPH director Margaret Aldan, and NCD Bureau administrator Becky Robles.
JAYSON CAMACHO

Kilili bill aims to add $7M to PSS federal funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has introduced legislation that would increase federal education funding for the Northern Mariana Islands by over $7 million each year. H.R. 851 removes the Commonwealth and other U.S. insular areas from a fixed percentage now shared with the Bureau of Indian Education and instead funds island schools more like schools in the 50 states.

Sablan introduced his bill at the same time as the House Committee on Education and the Workforce began formal proceedings on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, or No Child Left Behind. The law was last reauthorized in 2001.

Sablan, who is a member of the Education Committee, said, "I have been waiting for this opportunity for six years—since the first year I was sworn into Congress."

In an introductory statement filed along with his bill, Sablan explained that it "will help fulfill one of the original goals of the Act, namely to ensure that American children have access to a high-quality education—no matter the economic circumstances of the geographic area where they live.

Sablan

"This intent—to close the educational opportunity gaps that exist from community to community in America—has not yet been realized in my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, where incomes are less than half the national median and our local educational agency still struggles to meet the needs of students."

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, expenditures from all sources for public elementary and secondary schools were $10,667 per pupil nationally in fiscal 2012, but in the Northern Marianas per pupil spending was just $6,246.

In part, this is because the Commonwealth government provides less local funding than goes to schools in states. Sablan pointed out, however, the gap in funding is not because the people of the Northern Marianas are unwilling to invest in education. "In November they adopted an initiative amending our Commonwealth Constitution to require that 25 percent of each year's local revenues go to our schools, an increase of the existing 15 percent requirement. But, because personal incomes are low, these local government revenues are limited."

Sablan said that if the Elementary and Secondary Education Act worked the way it was intended, it would even out differences in local capacity to fund schools. Instead, under the current fixed percentage of funding for Bureau of Indian Education schools and insular schools, which the Secretary of Education then divides, the NMI is disadvantaged.

"According to the Congressional Research Service, the result in fiscal 2014 was an allocation of $1,987 per qualifying child in Bureau schools, while each qualifying child in Northern Marianas schools was allotted only $1,073."

Sablan's bill takes the Northern Marianas and other insular areas out of the fixed percentage set-aside system, does away with the Secretarial discretion over how the funds are shared, and uses the same funding formula that applies to the 50 states, although at a reduced rate in recognition of the relatively smaller populations of the islands.

The Congressional Research Service estimated that Sablan's amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act would have raised funding for the Northern Marianas Public School System by $7,454,000, if applied in the current fiscal year. ***(PR)***

1 Saipan beach red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the beach adjacent to the Central Repair Shop on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this location contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Whispering Palms FUNdraiser:

A Delightful Evening

The 5th Annual Wine & Tapas Fundraiser for Whispering Palms School was held on Friday night, January 23rd, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The event was held poolside and featured Lange Twins wines distributed by Pacific Trading Company along with an assortment of tapas prepared by the Hyatt chefs.

A variety of items were also generously donated by local businesses and residents for a silent auction. A sincere **Thank You** goes out to everyone that contributed and supported this event. We would like to recognize the following contributors: Pacific Trading Company, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Aces Tennis Academy, BSEA Sun Sports, Chalan Hinemlu/Dr. Jeremy Richards, MD, Dell Benson Photography, Delta Management Group – Shell Puerto Rico, Island Training Solutions/Jim Arenovski, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Gold's Gym, Greg Elliott Artwork, Hatha Adai Yoga, IT&E, Java Bakery, Jewelry by Jill, Marianas Printing Services, Marianas Resort and Spa, Monica's Furniture, MyLyn Wood Photography, Natural Nail Spa, Pacific Islands Club, Pacific Wellness Center, R&M Printing, Saipan Computer Services, Saipan Tennis Academy, Sunny and Chang Ho Kim, The Shack, Triple J Wholesalers, and Wireless Ridge Landscaping.

Whispering Palms School greatly appreciates the community's overwhelming support. This event was a success thanks to the sponsors, those that bought tickets, our parent volunteers, and the staff and management at the Hyatt Regency and Pacific Trading Company. Whispering Palms looks forward to hosting the 6th Annual Wine & Tapas Fundraiser next January.

INSTANT Scratchies
NORTHERN MARIANAS SPORTS ASSOCIATION
HOW TO PLAY
$1 TOP PRIZE $1000! Lucky 7's
AGENT USE ONLY
$1 QUICK CASH! TOP PRIZE $1000! AGENT USE ONLY
$1 Tropical Treasure TOP PRIZE $1000! AGENT USE ONLY
$1 Hafa Adai TOP PRIZE $1000! AGENT USE ONLY
1 Pick your games.
$1 Hafa Adai TOP PRIZE $1000! $2 AGENT USE ONLY
2 Scratch the game box.
$1 Hafa Adai TOP PRIZE $1000! $1000 $2 $5 $3 $1000 $1000 AGENT USE ONLY
3 Match 3 prizes to win cash instantly.
WIN INSTANTLY UP TO: $1000
PRIZES: FREE GAME, $2, $3, $5, $10, $20, $50, $100
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 31

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

RadioShack missed opportunities to remain relevant

RadioShack was once as ubiquitous as the neighborhood hardware store. Hobbyists cherished it as the place to pick up hard-to-find capacitors and wires. Generations bonded there while working on radio kits and other home electronics projects.

But like so many other companies caught in the riptide of technology innovation, the times caught up with RadioShack. There was a series of missed opportunities to remain relevant, and finally the Fort Worth, Texas, chain filed for bankruptcy protection last week.

Nameplate companies like RadioShack define cities, and that makes this company's demise particularly sad for Fort Worth.

RadioShack was the leading seller of citizens band radios—CBs—during the height of that craze in the 1970s. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the company waded into the budding computer revolution with greater initial success than Apple or IBM. Its TRS-80 was the first mass-marketed, fully assembled personal computer. Its first mobile phone followed soon after, and RadioShack also dabbled in selling and servicing satellite television systems.

These firsts drew worldwide attention and also showed that Fort Worth was more than oil, gas and cattle—it had a toehold in the technology revolution.

But RadioShack never produced the all-important second act. Its forays were short-lived successes, and the chain has struggled ever since to define its purpose, a stumbling block for many a failed company.

As innovation rolled and iPhones increasingly provided the functionality of many devices you used to buy at RadioShack, the company tethered itself to a massive network of brick-and-mortar stores and conventional thinking.

Despite numerous attempts at reinvention by a string of executive teams, the company languished as an analog geek supply shop in a generation of digital coding geeks. The company called itself a technology center, but beneath the surface it had trouble being more than a retailer that sold remote-control cars and batteries.

RadioShack never mastered retailing's biggest challenges—staying relevant and providing goods and services that aren't available online. Today, few consumers repair products because a shiny new and better replacement can be purchased almost immediately and for less money. Consumers don't fix big-screen televisions, printers or cellphones; consumers replace these products, and RadioShack wasn't a shopper's first option.

Unfortunately, few will remember RadioShack's achievements because a string of more nimble competitors supplanted the advantage it once enjoyed with better products and services. That's a cold, hard lesson for all companies. Customer tastes change, and the way a product is sold today most likely will not be the way it will be sold in the future.

The bankruptcy court will determine what happens next. RadioShack had an impressive, 94-year run. We're sad to see it end.

(c)2015 *The Dallas Morning News*

Britain may allow genetic modification, but US shouldn't blindly follow

By MARCY DARNOVSKY and JESSICA CUSSINS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Britain is about to become the only country in the world to explicitly allow the inheritable genetic modification of humans. With a vote Feb. 3 in the House of Commons, the country has paved the way for "three-person in vitro fertilization," which combines genetic material from two women and a man.

Creating high-tech procedures like this to help women have healthy babies seems worthy of unquestioning support. But it's not so simple—and promises to soon get more complicated.

The techniques at immediate issue are relatively crude. They work by removing the nucleus from the egg (or embryo) of an intended mother, and inserting it into one provided by a second woman. Any resulting child would inherit its nuclear DNA from the intended mother and father and its mitochondrial DNA from the second woman.

Mitochondria exist inside cells, but outside the nucleus, and are passed from mother to child. The aim of the procedure is to prevent the transmission of defective mitochondrial genes that cause diseases.

There are a wide variety of mitochondrial diseases, and most also involve genetic mutations in the nucleus. About 15 percent of cases stem from solely defective mitochondria, and only these women—estimated to be fewer than 15 per year in Britain—would be candidates for three-person in vitro fertilization.

Later this month, the House of Lords will get the final say on the regulations. If the bill is approved, it will carve out an exception to British law against the inheritable genetic modification of humans and put the country at odds with laws in 45 countries and provisions in several international treaties.

Crossing this threshold raises a profound societal question that until now has been hypothetical: As biotechnologies improve and enable us to make more specific genetic changes in our offspring, how far will we go? Will "mission creep" expand the genetic manipulations performed on future generations?

Genetic-engineering techniques now being developed, including "precision gene editing," soon may enable specific changes to nuclear DNA in embryos that would directly influence specific inherited traits. How do we ensure that we don't sleepwalk into a world of biotechnological eugenics in which genetic alterations or "enhancements," driven by parental preference or fertility industry marketing, exacerbate existing social inequalities?

Women affected by devastating mitochondrial diseases understandably would want to give cutting-edge methods a try—if they were safe, and if there were no better alternatives. But neither of these caveats holds in this case. In February 2014, an expert committee convened by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reviewed the same evidence available in Britain and concluded that three-person in vitro fertilization wasn't even ready for clinical trial. Yet Britain is barreling ahead to offer it in approved fertility clinics, outside a research context. Even more concerning, there is no required follow-up to study the health of any resulting children.

The FDA's experts and other scientists point to a range of complications that could seriously harm children conceived this way. Among their concerns: While mitochondria contain only a few dozen genes (compared with tens of thousands in the nucleus), there are hundreds or thousands of mitochondria in the cells of different human tissues. In fact, mitochondrial DNA and nuclear DNA are constantly interacting, and swapping different people's nuclei and mitochondria could disrupt that cellular communication.

Then there's the problem that if even tiny amounts of defective mitochondria wind up in the embryo, they could be preferentially replicated throughout a child's cells, causing or aggravating the very disease the procedure is meant to prevent. In addition, serious cellular harm can be caused by the nuclear transfer process itself.

There are safer family-building alternatives for women at risk of passing on mitochondrial disease. Egg donation and adoption are the obvious ones. Another is the embryo genetic-screening technology that can be used with conventional. Nearly all women affected by mitochondrial mutations produce some eggs with sufficient "good" mitochondria to produce a healthy child, and embryos created with these eggs can be selected and implanted. The resulting child would be fully genetically related to its parents.

Technological advances are exciting, but that should not blind us to the scientific evidence—nor the social and policy consequences. Like other powerful emerging technologies, inheritable genetic engineering calls for caution, cross-disciplinary engagement and informed public deliberation.

Will Britain's decision put pressure on U.S. regulatory authorities to greenlight such techniques? At the FDA's request, the Institute of Medicine recently began a 19-month review of their social policy and ethical implications. We are hopeful that this will be a venue for thoughtful deliberation of the entangled social, policy and safety questions at hand. Britain may soon be an international outlier, but the U.S. need not blindly follow suit.

Marcy Darnovsky is executive director and Jessica Cussins is project associate at the nonprofit Center for Genetics and Society. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Road trip!

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

For all of Saipan's tourism attractions, there's something the mainland offers that paradise doesn't: road trips.

The longest stretch I ever went without seeing any of the 50 states was about five years. The only thing I really missed was the open highways of the American west. That's prime road trip territory.

I'm not the only one who thinks so. Route 66, a legendary western artery, certainly qualifies as an internationally famous attraction. I've encountered tourists from Asia and from Europe who have gone to the states just to check out Route 66.

Much of the appeal is folklore. Today's super-highway system, known as the Interstate system, stole the thunder from the old roads like Route 66 several decades ago. But there are sections of Route 66 that are still alive. Some of these stretches are populated with souvenir shops and restaurants that feature kitsch from the 1930s through the 1960s. Heck, I've seen Route 66 theme shops that were probably 100 miles from Route 66, so its charm seems to run wider than its pavement.

As for the Interstate system, it has so many miles of roads (forty-something thousand miles) that it could pretty much circle the world two times. Its longest road, Interstate 90, is about 3,100 miles long, stretching all the way from the Atlantic (Boston) to the Pacific (Seattle). For all my love of the U.S. Interstate system, I have, for some reason, never driven this route. It cuts across the northern part of the country and I've always steered for more southerly routes.

It won't surprise you that American road trips have figured prominently in some famous American books. These include two of my favorites: *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, by Robert Pirsig, published in 1974, and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, by Hunter Thompson, published in 1971.

Another well-known book was called *Blue Highways*, by William Least Heat Moon. This book came along in 1981. It spent 42 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. The title's "blue" term comes from the fact that secondary roads (as opposed to the big Interstate highways) were depicted as blue on some maps. The author chose these roads so he could take a look at small-town America away from the slick environs of the modern Interstates.

Anyway, Route 66 in specific, and western highways in general, are hot stuff in some tourism circles these days. I was discussing this with some tourism pros. I don't have any brilliant insights into the gig, but I'll chew over a few random observations.

First of all, from what I've seen, it's fairly cheap to rent a car in the U.S. as long as it's being picked up and returned to the same place. A few hundred bucks a week can oftentimes do the trick. By contrast, whenever I've checked into one-way rentals they've been really expensive, sometimes in the thousands of dollars for a weeklong coast-to-coast drive; it's not the "week" part that gets you, it's the "coast-to-coast" part that does. By the way, I'm not offering a comprehensive analysis of all the possible scenarios here, I'm just pointing out what I've seen in my own travels.

In those travels the biggest expense I've seen isn't cars, or fuel, or food. It's hotel rooms. Even in the middle of nowhere, where you'd think demand would be slight and prices mild, a mid-tier hotel can be around $120 to $150 a night.

There are, of course, cheaper options. You can find motels with signs advertising $38 rooms if you look hard enough. When I was in college, a swarm of us would often commandeer some cheap motel rooms during road trips. After all, we were more a threat to the rooms than the other way around. Those were great times, but they're gone, for us at least since you can't turn back a sunset.

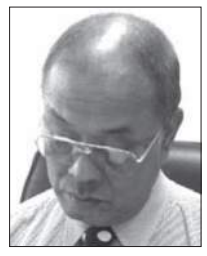
Speaking of sunsets, a pal of mine owned a friendly little beer joint in the isolated American west. He died several years ago. I knew him for over 25 years. I had a chance to take a look at the old place a year or two ago. It had become a dusty old relic. On Saipan, the jungle reclaims everything. But in the American west, the desert preserves everything. I think that's one of the appeals of driving through such areas; there's a lot to see for the simple reason that so much of it is still standing.

Well, I'll admit I've steered a pretty random course on this road trip thing. But that's OK. After all, many road trips are random wanderings. Today's discussion just upholds that tradition, and, better yet, I didn't even have to fork over $135 for a hotel room.

Hard lessons ignored

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



The journey to establishing and strengthening strong governance is a long arduous one. That it came without the benefit of a blueprint isn't a reason to plunder opportunities for the multitude. The basic framework was established in 1978 with a seven-year guaranteed funding from the feds. The goal was to help the CNMI create a strong economic base.

The deal bifurcated into politics and economics where we try to understand the beastly creature of self-government. I seriously doubt that we've succeeded in either of the two beyond the formality of the normal election process. Do we have an economic base other than a fickle single-legged tourism industry where "bankruptcy" is the new norm?

Like the sinking of the *Titanic*, changing Steering Cabin isn't going to save the NMI from turning belly up. It was on her way down, sturdy and steady! It sank! Aboard a rescue boat we waved "*hafadai*" to icebergs nearby smiling ear-to-ear. Do we blame Uncle Sam for the fiscal mess, all self-inflicted? Is this why someone wants a new political status commission? Nice try!

Beyond quiet civility, what's the real fiscal posture of the CNMI government? Specifically, what's the total deficit versus revenue generation and mandatory fiscal obligations over the next four years? Friends, let's live and preserve a time-tested ethical foundation found in our culture as a defense against misguided and destructive change!

What's co-optation?

I must have pricked the curiosity of a lot of people here about the term co-optation. They have demanded an explanation for fear that we may have slipped into a political trap that must be discarded forthwith.

Co-optation is when the elected elite turns servile, acceding to the whims of rich investors even against the will of "we the people." The boys went to Hong Kong and Macau purportedly on fact-finding missions. Returning, they declared casino would rake in billions. On their way out to expensive "wining and dining" in Macau they simply looked into a mirror declaring, "Deal!" Did you forget we're most capable of employing reason and analysis?

Was the Macau leg of the trip free? Didn't it set up a perfect floor to genuflect voluntarily to your new bosses, kneeling as beggars at their feet? Didn't you sell everything in the amount of $41 million? When you trashed principle and integrity, didn't you also ignore our dignity as a people? Who granted you permission to barter the cultural heritage of the indigenous people?

Furthermore, the casino legislation became a political hot potato tossed about in hopes of finding an author. It was tiptoed between chambers and signed into law at midnight. The original law was repealed with another version, bowing to the whims of their new bosses. Did they forget that "we the people" are your bosses?

With casino revenues plummeting in Macau over the last year with shares falling by as much as 34 percent per a recent news story in WSJ by Kate O'Keefe, I wonder if the casino architects here are wary of the implications such decline would have on the planned $7.1-billion project.

"Executives and analysts attribute Macau's sharp reversal of fortune primarily to a crackdown on corruption led by China's President Jinping. In addition to bringing down many top mainland officials, the sweeping campaign has scared off high rollers and decimated the city's junket system, they say." A straightforward view!

Policy of exclusion

About eight year ago, I watched with troubled conscience the open acquiescence of the policy of exclusion of the indigenous people in terms of investments here. Our very own people at the helm have volunteered and reduced our role as simple cogs or servile ignorance watching events unfold from the fence.

A perfect example is Kumho that took over Laulau Bay Resort from UMDA. Politicians co-opted with this group of investors. Our land was leased dirt cheap. The local elite gave the firm a $26-million tax break through the qualifying certificate, including forgiving the $30,000 appraisal cost. Kumho has since sold it to another investor. What's my point? The permanent host—indigenous people—was conveniently excluded from this investment. This and other major investments like BSI's never set aside common stocks for sale to the indigenous people.

I know that the public land leased was dirt cheap. Alone, I often recall pertinent query about economic ventures: Development for who? Is it really that hard making the permanent hosts of this archipelago partners in your investments?

Moreover, would any of the major investors ever join the indigenous community so it learns of our ways as a people? It's called assimilation!

This exclusionary policy has gradually picked up heavier decibels hailing from the voices of discontent of our people. And if you're a committed NMD perhaps you could share your wisdom with us?

LITERARY NOOK

A Valentine Quintet

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Here is a Quintet of recent sonnets on how love in its myriad forms can leave us in a Quandary or bogged down in a Quagmire about its Quality.

A brief definition for the Latin terms used in them follows: A "quid nunc" is a person who seeks to know all the latest news or gossip, a busybody. "Quiescent" means tranquilly at rest. "Quid pro quo" is something given or received by someone else. One meaning for "quietus" is removal from activity or death.

LOVE'S QUIETUS

There's a time when love goes on quietus
We think we won't let love operate us
A Besame Mucho Café will blue plate us
with leftovers and infidelity flatus
There's no need to tempt or salivate us
or in any way try to recreate us
though perhaps it is time to restate us
as transparency begins to liberate us
Matchmakers try their very best to mate us
so we ultimately will duplicate us
try as they might love will exonerate us
as such attempts begin to grate us
As the World Turns, soaps, suds, and gyrates us
Love's quietus will eliminate us

LOVE QUICK

Love fast and quick will never ever last
as Tom Rush sang, 'gone everywhere but home'
blurred memories from our mutual past
rarely enough for the subject of a poem
Love slow to grow may even go away
that much lovers instinctually know
it may come again some cold rainy day
which ever way the winds of change do blow
Hank Williams, 'Love Sick Blues' will sadly stick
on Jimmy Reed's 'Bright Lights…'and country nights
through the thin and thick of it fast and slick
Despite Friday's dance and Saturday fights
Love grows bittersweet like some chocolate Nestle's
So quick there seems little time for some wrestlies

QUID NUNC LOVE ?

"What now love?" the busybody asks.
All he had to say was a bunch of bunk
telling tales about each and every drunk
Meanwhile he came out smelling like a skunk
a three whole point sinker stinker slam dunk
He always seemed to exist in a funk
like an elephant with snot in its trunk
that couldn't blow out a big chunk
but when it finally did it sure stunk
His recent gossip was of a teenage punk
Stealing and driving an old hunk of junk
Out on to a frozen lake where it sunk
Hitting the bottom with a cold clank and klunk
Now a marijuana smoking monk is
The latest from busybody quid nunc

LOVE QUIESCENT

We lie in sweet silence musing in repose
The window half shut a soft breeze blows through
The last few rays of sunlight color your hair
As this weekend comes to a too short close
Tomorrow back to work we'll both be driving off
The taste of love and wine in our mind and mouth
A kitty sleeps in an old rocking chair
Both of us hitting dirt roads towards the South
A soft woolen blanket will ward off the chill
Out the window we see the car made ruts
On the dresser a dead wasp near a pear
We loll around the cabin or lie still
Hardly any breeze now only the rustling sound
Of chipmunks storing nuts under the ground

LOVE QUID PRO QUO—SHRIMP FOR GIANT PRAWN

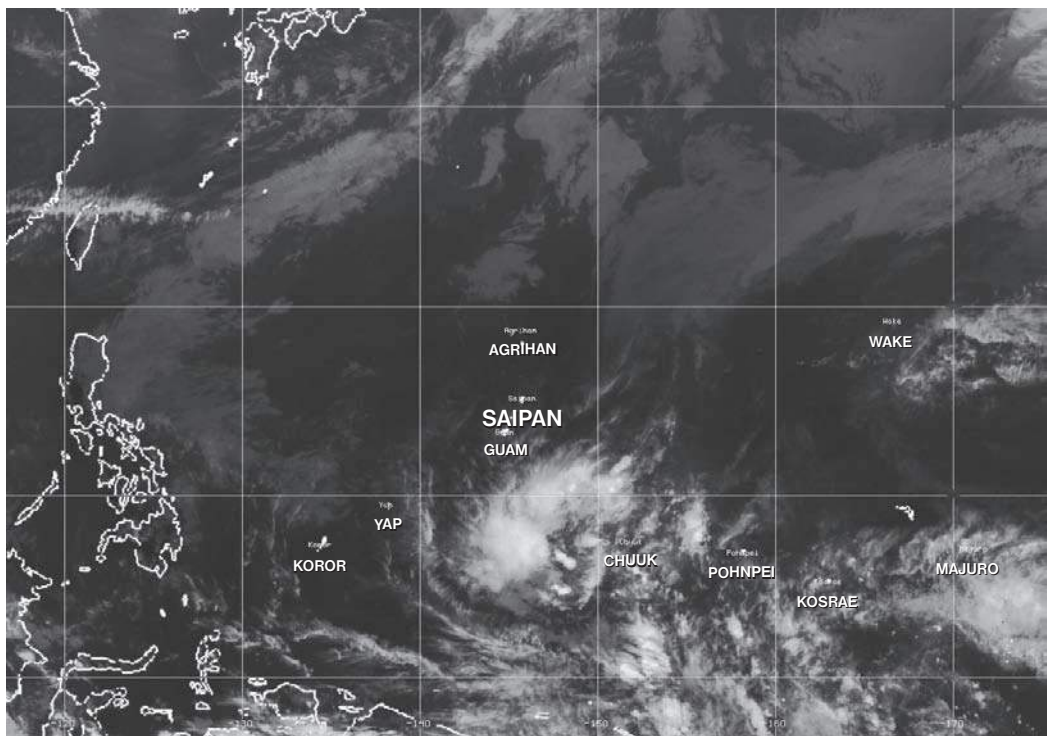
The shrimps donation got appreciation
Frustration was found in its equation
Litigation for the situation
brought considerable complications
Annunciation from the pink crustacean
whose aspiration was magnification
lacked justification and qualification
thus nullification of the operation
The temptation for prawn fornication
exploration and glorification
provided plenty purification
followed by aqueous pacification
So with sublimation on its vacation
the crustacean began real relaxation

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A frontal boundary runs east-northeastward from the remnants of Tropical Depression Higos near 17N152E to beyond 25N at 168E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are seen along and up to 430 miles north of the front. This area includes Minami Tori Shima. A surface trough curves northward from 17N167E to beyond 25N at 170E Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 15N168E to 21N174E. A circulation is centered west of Chuuk at 5N149E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present south of Guam but near Chuuk and Pohnpei or south of a line from EQ143E to 10N147E to 10N159E to EQ165E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 4N172E to 2N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼75
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲49	▼24
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲67	▼60
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼67
London	Cloudy	▲44	▼37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲85	▼59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼73
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼68
Miami	Sunny	▲77	▼54
New York	Snow	▲40	▼10
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲42	▼34
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼36
Pusan	Sunny	▲46	▼27
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼45
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼43
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲40	▼25
Tokyo	Windy	▲50	▼32
Washington, DC	Windy	▲41	▼16

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:55 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
1:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	6:22 PM
Tuesday	6:41 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:57 AM	12:44 PM
Saturday	1:51 AM	1:36 PM
Sunday	2:47 AM	2:32 PM
Monday	3:44 AM	3:32 PM
Tuesday	4:40 AM	4:33 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No need for hired consultant

A recent article suggesting OPM and CSC, together with a contracted consultant, are on a mission to conduct a study for the purpose of increasing the compensation of affected and covered CNMI government employees seems to contradict and conflict with laws and its own regulations. The law, in particular the budget appropriations, disallows the anticipation of future costs not germane to current budget needs of government, whether it be personnel or operational costs.

The government procures positions to operate the business of governing. Hence, the personnel management system of the CNMI government is one huge procurement enterprise bigger than its procurement and supply division work. It is the positions used that give rise to payments; it is never the employees or persons. This is a basic distinction and the OPM director and the consultant should have complete and useful input to the CSC on this matter. Disregarding a basic concept of public personnel management and lack of expert advice only shows that what is being pursued has no logical outcome.

Because positions in the budget makes the cost of government real, any study concerning positions should be derived and ascertained by appropriate job evaluation to give the price and value of positions. This information when validated should be the legal documentation and justification for payment to persons. Thus the cost of labor follows acceptable valuation methods and justifies the legal premises upon which the CNMI government decides its ability to pay for positions it lawfully authorizes to run and operate its governing business. In other words, even with the most advanced job evaluation methodology findings and recommendations, it would be a matter whether the government could afford the price tag of such undertaking.

Even where dire need to conduct job evaluations of positions used by the CNMI government is hopeful, OPM and CSC should clean and remove the clutter of its position classification system. But, even before this undertaking is placed on the drawing board, it is more important for the OPM to review the consistency, stability, validity, sustainability, appropriateness, and compliance nature of its personnel rules and regulations in the hope that it would meet present and future changes of its personnel management and human resources management jurisdictions within the CNMI government. Obsolescence of positions and procedural practices certainly come to a halt when regulatory mandates and legal standards are far pacing administrative actions whose policies are being promulgated by tardy and outdated regulatory constructs.

When the system approaches of personnel rules and regulations are stratified and clarified for what would work and legal, OPM would be in a position to do all the right outcomes under the only consideration that incorporates all the merit principles a government affirms as its only and useful standards. To do otherwise, would amount to irreversible harm to the taxpayers that foot the bills of governing. This is so basic, no one in the CNMI government would need a hired consultant to do what is already possible by utilizing its own internal capacity for all types and complexities of public personnel management work the CNMI government wish to achieve.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Please help us avoid an accident

I'm taking this road so as to spare myself from the frustration of having to deal with the proverbial "red tape" of government bureaucracy. I write with the hope that one of your many readers might know someone (who knows someone?) who can actually address this issue. I'm referring to the road the runs through the middle of the old abandoned nuisance once called the La Fiesta Mall leading to As Matuis. First, there is that obnoxious speed bump that is not built to the standard specifications required for speed bumps. In fact, it's almost like running into a side curb. This puts undue wear and tear on vehicles, not to mention the stress on motorists.

Second, as you proceed on that very same road toward As Matuis for say, 200 yards, you suddenly encounter a wicked twist in the road, literally. At some point as you approach that twist in the road you will notice that you and the car coming from the opposite direction are on a collision course. It's like someone were playing some sick joke on you. When two vehicles come upon that twist in the road at the same time, drivers need some serious navigational skills to escape serious injuries. Mind you, this radical maneuver has to be executed in two seconds flat and with the precision of a fighter pilot. The problem is further compounded by the fact that the road appears to be narrower at the point where the twist is. It almost appears to be motivated by malicious intent if you ask me. Keep in mind that drivers descending from the steep incline are being influenced by the force of the elevation drop itself. Needless to say, it's an accident waiting to happen.

These problems are serious, have existed for decades now and do not require much resources to fix. The ball is in your court. Try not to drop it.

Jose C. Mafnas
As Matuis, Saipan

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2015 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2015-001
"Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian (20 units)"

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, January 23, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Tinian Field Office during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Tinian Field Office on **Friday, January 30, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.** Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan, Director**
Division of Procurement & Supply

NISSAN
Innovation that excites

Experience Nissan

FREE TINT
FREE ZIEBART UNDERCOAT
FREE ONE YEAR MAINTENANCE

$22,995
OR
$169
per paycheck*

NEW 2015
ROGUE SELECT™

Passing other cars, climbing hills, mastering the ins and outs of traffic-when you tap into the spirit of the Rogue you tap into innovative practicality and efficiency. The 2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine gets a remarkable 28 MPG (highway) and is backed by 170 horsepower and 175 lb-ft of torque. Simply put, Rogue rises up to adapt to a lifestyle of versatility and flexibility.

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

* **Nissan Rogue Select** retail price $22,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $364.26 or $168.12 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,855.60.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

From the only cell company on island that protects you from high monthly billings.

CAP PLAN $25/month

1000 Local Call Minutes
Unlimited Local SMS
Local Calls and SMS include Guam and the CNMI.

Unlimited Push-To-Talk
Excess local calls - 10¢/minute • Once your usage reaches $45* your local calls become UNLIMITED for the month.

OTHER FEATURES & OPTIONS

Per Unit	Value Added Services
$6/mo	Unlimited Nationwide (US) SMS
$10/mo	Unlimited Nationwide (US) Calling
3¢/SMS	Philippines SMS to Sun Cellular
5¢/SMS	To all other RP networks

*FREE phone with 24-month sign-up to the $25 Cap Plan. Phone models may vary and are subject to availability. Some conditions apply.

/iconnectguam | iconnectsaipan.com | 888-8888
GROUND FLOOR HK PANGELINAN BLDG. MIDDLE ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU, SAIPAN MP 96950

iCONNECT
Push-To-Talk That Works!

$1M available to aid coral reef health in territories, FAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina today announced the availability of one million dollars in grant funds under the Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) program for the year 2015. The goal of the CRI program is to protect and improve the health of coral reef habitats in the U.S. insular areas for their long-term economic and social benefit.

"Healthy coral reefs are the cornerstone of island communities, from the U.S. Virgin Islands to Guam," said Assistant Secretary Kia'aina. "Coral reefs protect island communities from coastal erosion, storms and wave damage, provide habitat to numerous marine species, and support cultural practices and livelihoods as well as important tourism and recreational industries. These valuable resources are being threatened by a variety of stresses from inland de-forestation to overharvesting and climate change. OIA is committed to helping the insular areas protect these vital resources for present and future generations."

The Coral Reef Initiative in the Office of Insular Affairs accomplishes its goals by awarding grants for projects that help the insular areas address a variety of threats from land-based sources of pollution, to overfishing and climate change. The program also supports local efforts to improve understanding of the value of coral reefs through outreach and education programs.

Examples of recent coral reef projects funded by OIA include restoration of watersheds at Faga'alu, American Samoa, and LaoLao Bay, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; community-based resource management planning in Ulithi Atoll, Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, and the outer islands of Republic of the Marshall Islands; and coral reef internships for university students in the insular areas.

Applications for 2015 funding are encouraged and will be considered from insular government entities, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations whose grant proposals directly benefits coral reef habitats in the four U.S. territories or three freely associated states, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.

Consideration will be given to proposals that support local and regional priorities for protection and sustainable use of marine resources, and especially coral reefs. Priorities for each insular area are identified in each jurisdiction's Local Action Strategy and by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force which may be accessed through the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force website, www.coralreef.gov.

For more information, see Instructions for Applications to the DOI Office of Insular Affairs Coral Reef Initiative on Grants.gov.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. ***(DOI/OIA)***

NMI descent group sets members' meeting

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp., a chartered non-profit organization, will hold its general membership meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, starting at 6pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

The agenda includes developing and adopting the 2015 program priorities/community action plan; membership recruitment; election of officers and standing committees (Policy, Membership, Programs, Resources & Development, etc.); and an update on NMD *amicus curiae* filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to nullify and overturn NMI District Court Chief Judge Ramona Manglona's decision to allow non-NMDs to vote on matters affecting NMI Constitution Article 12, restricting land ownership to NMDs only. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) RUNWAY VACUUM SWEEPER** to the FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0002-80, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) Runway Vacuum Sweeper to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-80"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new manually operated runway vacuum sweeper for the Saipan International Airport designed especially for use in cleaning pavements to remove debris, dirt and dust from routed cracks of the pavement, all in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED (300) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, February 13, 2015**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifcations, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer
Date: January 20, 2015

Be the small business with the big growth spurt.

Is your business ready to take the next step? If the answer is yes, our business bankers can help you grow.

Call 234-OPEN (6736).

First Hawaiian Bank
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

FREE BUSINESS CHECKING
- No minimum balance requirement
- No monthly service charge
- 25 FREE items each month

OPEN A NEW FREE BUSINESS CHECKING ACCOUNT BY 2/28/15 AND ALSO RECEIVE:
- $20 off your first business-style check order[1]
- Free FHB Business Online (Online Banking) for 6 months[2]
- Free Power Kit[1]

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road • Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau • Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936

Member FDIC

1 The minimum deposit to open an account and obtain the $20 discount on the first business-style check order and power kit is $100. No minimum balance required to avoid a monthly service charge. Accounts with a zero balance for 30 consecutive days will be closed automatically. You will receive the $20 business-style check order discount and power kit when you mention this offer at any First Hawaiian Bank branch, open a new (not converted) Free Business Checking or any other business checking account and order your first business check order. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer. Limit of one $20 business-style check order discount plus one power kit per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer expires on 02/28/15 or when supplies are exhausted. Account allows for 25 free items (for each check written, deposit ticket processed, or check deposited) per statement period. Excess item fee of $0.50 per item over 25. Miscellaneous fees and service charges may apply.

2 Offer applies to new FHB Business Online customers who enroll by 02/28/15. Offer does not apply to Online Payment service or access through Quicken® or QuickBooks®. After six (6) months, standard FHB Business Online fees apply. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online Services for more information. You must have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details.

BSI's archaeological project deemed 'a sound plan'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Historic Preservation Office has expressed support for Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s archaeological recovery project at the proposed site in Garapan.

BSI counsel Viola Alepuyo told *Saipan Tribune* that HPO, through its representative Eric Lash, advised the Division of Coastal Resources Management board on Wednesday that Best Sunshine presented a "sound plan" and that they recommend the approval of its major siting permit.

The Garapan site in front of the T Galleria has been identified as part of BSI's $7.1-billion integrated casino resort project.

The DCRM board is composed of various regulatory agencies such as HPO, Department of Public Works, Coastal Resources Management, Department of Commerce, Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

BSI submitted an application for major siting permit for the archaeological work to be done at the Garapan site for the initial gaming facility.

Alepuyo disclosed that BSI has hired a firm from Hawaii, which has agreed to work in coordination with Marianas Area Research Center out of University of Hawaii as well as University of Guam in order to do the archaeological dig.

The HPO representative anticipates the archaeological dig to reveal information about a transitional phase in ancient Chamorro history that's not available anywhere else; ancient burial grounds with significant information; and a Spanish colonial site.

At the meeting, HPO appreciated BSI's willingness to undertake and fund the archaeological recovery project.

DLNR acting secretary Richard Seman told BSI chief executive officer Mark Brown that he wants to make sure there will be some form of local community involvement, if there's anybody in the field of archaeology or related field that could be brought into the project to assist in any way.

Alepuyo said Brown told Seman it's already in the works.

In addition, Alepuyo said, Brown explained that what the archaeologists are planning to do is to open up the site so that any school can schedule to come and view the site or take a tour of what's happening or what is found there.

Brown also revealed that as part of BSI's investment is to showcase some of the findings to educate tourists about ancient Chamorro culture.

Marianas Business Plaza solar farm part of a green vision

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2,400 solar panels of the Marianas Business Plaza produces between 70 and 90 percent of the building's power, according to owner Erick Van Der Maas, and is part of his goal to have one of the greenest, if not the greenest, building in the Pacific.

"I was always interested in clean energy," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The idea for the solar farm was hatched five years ago, and was realized in November, after permitting and manufacturing was completed over the last several years.

The solar farm was designed and built by N15 Architects and Hofschneider Engineering. GPPC, Inc. was the contractor.

Some 200 panels each are routed to the farm's 12 converter boxes. Energy is carried underground and around the side of the building into a back room where six inverters hum and whir as long as the sun is out.

When a large cloud passes, they go quiet, but just for a minute, said Van Der Maas. Then they start are whirring again.

The structures outside are built to withstand 185 mph wind load. The panels produce an average of 2,000 kilowatts a day on an island with 5.25 peak sun hours.

"We are one of the greenest or the greenest buildings in the Pacific…I look around and I can't find so far a greener building than us," he said.

"We don't use central air-conditioning, which is an enormous waste of energy. We painted our roofs white to be reflective. We try to collect water when we can," he added.

Aquaponics is another area they are looking to develop, he said. Right now, they have a facility on the plaza's first floor and are looking to move it to the third floor soon to have self-made lettuce and other vegetables.

In this facility, fish will defecate in their water tanks, then plants will use this for nitrate as well as clean the water.

He said the food that's not finished at MBP's 360 Restaurant will be dried and fed to the fish again "so there is little waste, and little water waste as well" in a process that for the most part is pesticide- and fertilizer-free, Van Der Maas said.

The "icing on the cake" is the harvest of fish at the end of the year.

"Pesticide-free vegetables, healthy fish…you know what you get when you eat here," he said.

This new aquaponic venture will be used solely for the restaurant but Van Der Maas hopes younger people on Saipan will start to develop the field on a bigger scale.

He believes Saipan can become an eco-friendly destination for tourists.

In the Pacific, he said, tourists want to go to a place that is clean.

Guam police officer collapses during training

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— A Guam police officer has been hospitalized after collapsing during a training exercise.

Pacific Daily News (http://is.gd/SFYDlF) reports the 17-year veteran of the Guam Police Department was among officers who were undergoing SWAT physical training at Eagle Field in Mangilao when he collapsed Wednesday morning.

The 49-year-old officer was taken to Naval Hospital Guam.

Police spokesman A.J. Balajadia says the officer is in critical condition.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
LED FLUORESCENT TUBE
Best Price in Saipan
Less & More
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More lifetime and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
Electric Tools
NEW ARRIVAL
Made in USA
Jig Saw, Hammer Drill, Finish Sanders, Circular Saw and etc.
ACCESSORY OF SHOWER & KITCHEN
Stainless & Space Aluminum
Unique and Gracefull Design
NEW ARRIVAL
Storage Rack • Towel Rack
ALUMINUM WINDOW
New Arrival
MADE IN USA | All Sizes
VARIOUS STYLES:
French, Aluminum, Bronze
NEW DESIGN!!
FASHIONABLE CERAMIC TILE
Big Promotion!
The Best Price and Quality in Saipan
PAINT SPECTRUM
• Special Formula for Tropical Marine Climate
• Longer Service Life
• Top Quality
FLAT & SEMI-GLOSS
INT & EXT LATEX
MAHOGANY LUMBER & DOOR JAMB
HIGH QUALITY/FULL SIZE
CHAIN LINK FENCE
Full Size
"The Best Price in Saipan"
REBAR US STANDARD
#3 TO #8
MADE IN KOREA
U.S. LUMBER
PRESSURE TREATED / REGULAR
15% TO 75% OFF
ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
dba SABLAN REALTY

With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose
VS Sablan Plaza in Chalan Piao
Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM
Visit Melanie's Gift Shop, KRM General Merchandise, Subway "Eat Fresh"
Sunday Bazaar
8:00AM to 5:00PM
SABLAN REALTY
invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations. Maintenance Free.
Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.
Commercial Space for Rent
at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings.
Sablan Building in San Jose
Units on the Second Floor are available at 50¢ per square foot.
SPECIAL RENT PROMO
Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA
we have rental space available on the first floor now at 50 cents per square foot for units ranging from 541 sq. ft. to 1400 sq ft.
Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a Daycare Center, Dance Studio or Gym at 35¢ per square foot.
Second Floor - Office Space, 900 sq.ft. to 1,400 sq. ft. at 50¢ per square foot.
3rd Floor (2 Units) 2 Bedroom Apartment at $354.00/mo.
2nd Floor Office Space (2 Units) Available at Chalan Kanoa, Above Bank of Saipan - 800 Sq ft per unit at 65 cents per square foot.
Contact Tony Muna
(Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address:plebechamp80@gmail.com)
or Ben Sablan (Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com)
or Call 234-2585/235-9020

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITIATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-CCC-042
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 03, 2015 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION"
COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ EDWARD C. DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

AMENDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTSEWER SYSTEM PROJECT
Project No. CPA-TA-001-15
The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Tinian International Airport Sewer System Project, No. CPA-TA-001-15, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.
The Scope of Work (SOW) includes constructability review and overall construction management services. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 20, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.
At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA airport related projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly and level of experience with airport related projects;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for airport projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable and a valid CNMI business license.
Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, MARCH 2, 2015. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.
Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.
An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.
All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.
The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.
Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055
/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer
Date: February 10, 2015

MCS student named to nat'l scholars society

Camacho

Mt. Carmel School student Keona A. Camacho was recently selected to become a member of The National Society of High School Scholars, which recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship, and community commitment. The announcement was made by NSHSS founder and chairman Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Keona demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said Nobel. "Keona is now a member of a unique community of scholars—a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

Camacho is the daughter of Daniel Camacho and Roxanne Diaz, who expressed happiness at their daughter's accomplishment.

"As parents, we are always proud of our children's accomplishments and in this token, we are extremely proud of our daughter for achieving this great milestone in her life. As she matures in life, I'm hopeful that this achievement will propel her to do extraordinary things for herself and her community," said Daniel Camacho.

"I always tell my daughter that hard work pays off. Things may be difficult at times, but the difficulty is a test to prove that you can overcome it. And when you do, that will tell you that nothing is impossible. Only you can make it happen. We love you and we will be there to guide you along the path to success," he added.

Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, personalized recognition item, and publicity honors.

"Our vision is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities," said NSHSS president James W. Lewis. "We aim to help students like Keona build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community." ***(PR)***

Mount Carmel School launches MCS 2.0 campaign

Mount Carmel School recently launched "MCS 2.0." a social media campaign that features new social media tools for the island's only Catholic school. As part of the social media campaign, the school announced that it had also received new laptops for all teachers as part of the CNMI Public School System's 21st Century Classroom Initiative.

"In this age of digital technology, social networking, and globalization, it's more important than ever to stay connected and engaged as part of a 21st century education," said school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "We trust that these new tools will help our students, faculty, staff, families, and Alum-Knights connect to their school and each other."

One of the new social media tools is a Twitter account for the school, @MCS_KNIGHTS. Twitter is an online social networking service that enables users to send and read short 140-character messages called "tweets."

Another new social media tool is the school's official YouTube channel. In addition to featuring the school's 50th anniversary history documentary, senior farewell videos for the past 10 years, and some school ads, the school's YouTube channel also features the "Best Day of My Life" commercial that was aired during this year's Super Bowl game. The commercial was shot in one continuous take as the camera moved throughout the campus and the entire student body showed their school spirit with singing, cheering, wearing costumes, donning face paint, and tossing streamers and confetti throughout the video.

The school's MCS 2.0 campaign also marked a milestone as the school reached 1,000 likes on its official Facebook page.

To complement the social media campaign, later this year, the school will launch a new online admissions portal and cloud-based student information system. The new portal and system will allow students and parents to apply for admission, register for classes, pay for tuition and fees, monitor grades, and communicate with teachers, all online. ***(MCS)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 15th birthday to our princess, Mannelyn Aida Cabrera! May your day be filled with lots of love and surprises! Hope you enjoy on your special day. We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, April, Richelle, and the entire families and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 1st birthday to our little PakPak, Roque Duenas Camacho Jr.! With love from Mom and Kiana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy sweet 16th birthday to Shaina Nonille Castro. May you have a wonderful and special day! Coming out from the whole family!

Let's Go!
Ride with us this Valentine's day!
Come alone, come with friends, or come with family.
Valentine's day weekend special rates available!
Call us at 322-LETS (5387) or 322-GOGO (4646) for more information and reservations.
Limited seating available.
Saturday and Sunday only
Our facility is outfitted with one of the largest fleets of XP 1000 models in the world and local/military discounts are available.
Inquire with our office at 322-LETS (5387)/322-GOGO (4646) or sales@letsgo-saipan.com
Restrictions apply, please inquire today!

Live the Fiesta Way!
5 COURSE MENU
Scallop wrapped with Smoked Salmon on Chiffonade with creamy Balsamic Drizzle
***
Sherry flavored Beef Consomme with Crispy Chicken Crepes
***
Green Leaves tossed in Sesame Dressing Topped with Grilled Foie Gras
***
Grilled Pacific Halibut surrounded with Hibiscus scented Miso Sauce on Potato Galette and caramelized Vegetables
Or
Rib Eye Steak with Pepper Sauce
***
Raspberry Grand Marnier Parfait
Valentine's Special
February 14, 2015, Saturday
Celebrate Valentine's day at Mai Teppanyaki
5 course dinner for two
$145
With a glass of Bottega Petalo Moscato Spumante
Limited Seating
Only 6:00pm or 8:00pm
For reservations & inquiry
Please call Fiesta Resort & SPA at
234-6414 ext. 1547
MAI teppanyaki

Business

Greek debt talks break down

BRUSSELS (AP)—Talks between Greece and its creditors in the 19-country eurozone broke down Thursday without agreement or even a plan of action on how to move forward on the country's debts and bailout.

Following an emergency meeting of the eurogroup in Brussels, the two sides failed to even issue a statement, a sign that a compromise deal over Greece's debts at next Monday's follow-up meeting will be a struggle.

Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the head of the eurogroup of finance ministers, said detailed proposals weren't even discussed, adding that there wasn't enough common ground to chart the road to the next meeting.

"It was my ambition to agree on the steps to take the next couple of days so we could spend them well and make more progress between now and Monday," he said. "Unfortunately we've not been able to do that so we will continue our talks on Monday and move on from there."

Europe has been embroiled in another Greek crisis following the election of the radical-left Syriza government last month. The new government was elected on a mandate to drastically reduce the burden of the country's bailout and the associated budget austerity measures, which it blames in large part for the country's economic woes. Despite a recent modest return to growth, the Greek economy is around 25 percent smaller than it was and poverty and unemployment rates have swelled.

Not deterred by the failure to agree to a new plan, Greece's finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis, laid out the hope that progress could be made at Monday's meeting.

"We had a very constructive and extensive discussion of all the facets of the Greek crisis and the way in which the eurogroup can facilitate the transition to a new phase in the history of the Greek social economy so we overcome the debt deflationary crisis, the humanitarian crisis and so on," Varoufakis said.

Varoufakis said a deal at this meeting, his first as finance minister, was never on the cards.

"We understand each other much, much better now than we did this morning, so I think this is a major achievement because, you know, from understanding, the agreement follows," he said.

If Belgium's finance minister, Johan Van Overtveldt, is any guide, Monday's meeting could go either way.

"Like it was today it went from left to right and up and down, and so it's hard to take an average of it, but it will continue to be a very difficult discussion," he said.

Popular support for a change of course is strong in Greece, with thousands taking to the streets across the country Wednesday to give their backing to the government. Greek police say about 15,000 people attended a rally in Athens' central Syntagma Square. Another 5,000 gathered in the northern city of Thessaloniki.

Fires, deaths continue after Jeep fuel tank recall

DETROIT (AP)—As Kayla White slowed her SUV behind two other cars to exit a suburban Detroit freeway on Veterans Day, it was rammed from behind by a Cadillac STS. Her red 2003 Jeep Liberty bounced off a Nissan in front of it, rolled onto its side and exploded in flames.

Other drivers ran to help but were forced back by the heat. Firefighters arrived in just three minutes but were too late. White, a 23-year-old restaurant hostess who was eight months pregnant, died of burns and smoke inhalation.

White is one of more than 70 people killed in fires involving older Jeeps with plastic fuel tanks mounted behind the rear axle.

Fiat Chrysler, which makes Jeeps, recalled 1.56 million of them in June 2013 under pressure from U.S. safety regulators. But only 12 percent of the SUVs have been repaired in the 18 months since the recall, a much slower pace than usual. And White's Jeep was not among those fixed.

Last week, prosecutors charged the Cadillac driver with committing a moving violation that caused a death. But safety advocates and the lawyer for White's family say the blame belongs as much, if not more, on Chrysler and an auto-industry safety system that moves too slowly to prevent tragedy.

The rear-mounted tanks have little structure to protect them if struck from behind, making them susceptible to punctures and fires. Moving the gas tank in front of the axle would be expensive and difficult. So Chrysler's remedy involved installing trailer hitches on the rear of the Jeeps as an extra layer of protection.

Government testing showed the hitches protected the tanks in crashes up to 40 mph when stationary Jeeps were hit from behind. But at higher speeds, they wouldn't help.

White tried to get the repair done a few weeks before her death but was told by a Jeep dealer that parts weren't available, according to Gerald Thurswell, her family's lawyer. He wouldn't identify the dealership, and his contention could not be independently verified by The Associated Press.

Thurswell contends the gas tank ruptured, spilling fuel that touched off the fire.

A Chrysler spokesman expressed sympathy to White's family but said the company had no written proof that she asked a dealer about the recall.

IRS apologizes for seizing bank accounts of small businesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pressured by Congress, the IRS said Wednesday it is changing its policies and apologizing for seizing banks accounts from otherwise law-abiding business owners simply because they structured bank transactions to avoid federal reporting requirements.

Their alleged crime: routinely making bank deposits of less than $10,000. That allowed the business owners to avoid reporting requirements designed to catch drug dealers and money launderers.

IRS Commissioner John Koskinen told Congress that the IRS is changing policies to prevent the seizures, as long as the money came from legal means.

"To anyone who is not treated fairly under the code, I apologize," Koskinen told the House Ways and Means oversight subcommittee. "Taxpayers have to be comfortable that they will be treated fairly."

By law, bank transactions above $10,000 must be reported to the IRS. It's a felony, called "structuring," to manage transactions to avoid the reporting requirement, even if the money is legally earned.

In some cases, the IRS seized and held bank accounts for years without bringing charges.

Koskinen said he didn't know how many cases the new policy would affect. He said the IRS seized a total of 147 accounts last year, including those in which the money was illegally obtained.

"On average over the last several years, it's less than 200 cases," Koskinen said. "In 60 percent of those cases, the owner of the asset never shows up, which shows that they obviously had a criminal activity going on."

The Treasury inspector general for tax administration is launching an audit of the IRS's seizure program, said Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill., chairman of the Ways and Means oversight subcommittee. It is unclear how long the probe will take.

Roskam said the IRS has too much power to seize assets, even if the agency doesn't have adequate evidence of a crime.

"The IRS doesn't have to give notice to the account-holder before seizing the assets. And the IRS doesn't have to prove that the person is actually guilty of anything—just that the account probably is involved in structuring," Roskam said.

Nation

AP

President Barack Obama, flanked by Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry, speaks about the Islamic State group, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

Obama asks fresh war powers, says IS group is 'going to lose'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vowing that Islamic State forces are "going to lose," President Barack Obama urged Congress on Wednesday to authorize military action against terrorists who are cutting a swath across the Middle East. Yet he ruled out large-scale U.S. ground combat operations reminiscent of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I'm convinced that the United States should not get dragged back into another prolonged ground war," the president said at the White House as he set Congress on a path to its first war-powers vote in 13 years.

Despite his words of reassurance, initial reaction in Congress amounted to bipartisan skepticism, with much of the dissatisfaction centered on his attempt to find a political middle ground with respect to ground forces.

Republicans expressed unhappiness that he had chosen to exclude any long-term commitment of ground forces, while some Democrats voiced dismay that he had opened the door to deployment at all.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., also said Obama had ruled out air support for U.S.-trained rebels battling Syrian President Bashar Assad, adding, "That's immoral."

Under Obama's proposal, the use of military force against Islamic State fighters would be authorized for three years, unbounded by national borders. The fight could be extended to any "closely related successor entity" to the Islamic State organization that has overrun parts of Iraq and Syria, imposed a stern form of Sharia law and killed several hostages it has taken, Americans among them.

"Make no mistake. This is a difficult mission," Obama said in seeking action against a group that he said threatens America's own security. He said it will take time to dislodge the terrorists, especially from urban areas. "But our coalition is on the offensive. ISIL is on the defensive, and ISIL is going to lose.

Lawyer: 'American Sniper' said ex-Marine 'straight-up nuts'

STEPHENVILLE, Texas (AP)—Shortly before he was shot to death by a troubled former Marine at a Texas gun range, legendary Navy SEAL sniper Chris Kyle texted a buddy, "This dude is straight-up nuts," a defense attorney told jurors Wednesday.

A lawyer for Eddie Ray Routh said in opening statements of the man's murder trial that Routh's insanity was so evident that Kyle and his friend Chad Littlefield exchanged texts expressing alarm as the three rode together in February 2013 to a Texas shooting range.

"He's (sitting) right behind me, watch my six," Littlefield texted back, using a military reference for watching one's back.

But a prosecutor said Routh still knew right from wrong, even with a history of mental illness.

The first day of the highly anticipated trial also included sometimes tearful testimony from Kyle's widow, who spoke about her husband's passion for helping veterans, gun safety and opposition to mixing alcohol with gun use.

The case has drawn intense interest, largely because of Kyle's memoir about being a sniper who served four tours in Iraq. The Oscar-nominated film based on the book has grossed nearly $300 million.

Erath County District Attorney Alan Nash described the 27-year-old Routh as "a troubled young man" who on the morning of the killings numbed himself with marijuana and whiskey. He said a history of mental illness should not absolve Routh of being accountable for the deaths.

NC slayings spark Muslim outcry, renew claims of bias

By RACHEL ZOLL
AP RELIGION WRITER

The slayings of three young Muslims near the University of North Carolina tapped a deep well of fear and anger over bias toward American Muslims.

The hashtag (hash)MuslimLivesMatter spread widely on Twitter.

When Chapel Hill police said a preliminary investigation indicated a parking dispute had triggered the shootings, several U.S. Muslim leaders said the brutal nature of the crime warranted a hate crime investigation from both federal and local law enforcement. The family of the victims joined the call for a hate-crime inquiry.

"How would we be dealing with this issue if the faith and ethnicity of the victims and perpetrator were switched, if a brown-skinned person went into the room of three white people and shot them?" said Dalia Mogahed, director of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, a think-tank that specializes in Muslim issues. "We're all just floored by the blatant double standard that we're seeing in both law enforcement and media coverage of the issue."

Many Muslims voiced outrage that the killings Wednesday had not drawn more media attention.

The victims were a newlywed couple, Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23, and Yusor Mohammad, 21, and Mohammad's sister, 19-year-old Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha. Craig Stephen Hicks, 46, was charged with three counts of first-degree murder in the shootings at the Chapel Hill condominium complex.

Asia

PH police say rebels finished off wounded commandos

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine police chief, holding back tears, said Wednesday that Muslim rebels shot to death some of his anti-terror commandos as they lay wounded in a fierce gunbattle last month that has stalled the government's peace deal with the insurgents.

Deputy Director General Leonardo Espina told a congressional hearing that the country's largest Muslim rebel group, which signed a peace deal with the government last year, should explain why its insurgents committed the "overkill" that left 44 of his men dead in the Jan. 25 gunbattle.

Espina tried not to cry as he spoke during the nationally televised House of Representatives inquiry into the deaths of the elite policemen during a secret search mission in the marshy outskirts of southern Mamasapano town.

The commander of the slain policemen, Getulio Napenas Jr., since relieved of his job, approached Espina to console him and openly wept over the combat deaths that followed the killing of one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terror suspects, Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir or Marwan.

"My men were very much alive, but you did not let them return home to be with their children," Espina said, pausing as he struggled to control his emotions. "What is this overkill that you did to my men?"

AP

Philippine National Police Officer-in-Charge Leonardo Espina, right, talks to Police Director Benjamin Magalong at the start of the Lower House probe into the Jan. 25, 2015, incident killing 44 elite police commandos known as SAF (Special Action Force) on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, in Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia investigating dissenters over Anwar's jailing

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian police have detained a cartoonist and are investigating two lawmakers for sedition over tweets and a cartoon condemning the judiciary for dismissing opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's final appeal against a sodomy conviction. Anwar began a 5-year prison sentence Tuesday after the country's top court ruled there was overwhelming evidence showing that he sodomized a former male aide. The case was widely seen as politically motivated to eliminate any threats to the ruling coalition, whose popularity has been eroding after more than five decades of unquestioned dominance. Police detained cartoonist Zulkiflee Anwar Alhaque, better known as Zunar, at his home late Tuesday over a series of tweets on Anwar's case. A cartoon he posted on Twitter showed Prime Minister Najib Razak as the judge in Anwar's case.

Crews try to rescue fishing boat stuck in Antarctic ice

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Crews from the U.S. and New Zealand were trying Thursday to rescue a damaged fishing boat with 27 people aboard that remains stuck in ice near Antarctica. The U.S. Coast Guard said the Australian boat Antarctic Chieftain suffered damage to three of its four propellers after getting stuck Wednesday and can no longer maneuver. Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Donnie Brzuska said it has sent the icebreaker Polar Star on a 330 nautical mile mission to free the fishing boat. He said the cutter will need to break through several miles of ice that is 2.7 meters (9 feet) thick as well as enduring high winds and snowfall.

Officials: 6 inmates suicide after failed breakout in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Six inmates led by a mob boss committed suicide at a prison in Taiwan early Thursday after a failed breakout attempt in which they seized weapons and held a warden and guards hostage, officials said. All the hostages were released.

The inmates started their attempt Wednesday afternoon in the southern port city of Kaohsiung. In a telephone interview with a newspaper during the overnight standoff, the 46-year-old ringleader said the six had long planned the move and were prepared to die. He also complained about long sentences and unfairness in the granting of medical paroles.

Deputy Justice Minister Chen Ming-tang said officials rejected the group's demands for safe passage out of the prison and had tried to convince them to surrender peacefully during hours of negotiations.

"We tried to give them assurances so they wouldn't do something stupid and to reconsider, but sadly they committed suicide and we feel deep regret," Chen told a news conference in Taipei.

Chen said five prison staff were slightly injured in the standoff, but did not elaborate.

By the pre-dawn hours, the inmates had released all hostages except the warden. They then shot themselves, and the warden was able to walk free, Chen said.

The ministry did not offer any video or other evidence of the suicides, but there was no sign during the standoff of a raid by police who ringed the Kaohsiung Prison in scenes that were broadcast by Taiwan stations.

Chen said four of the inmates shot themselves first and that the remaining two had fired additional shots at them to make sure they were dead before shooting themselves, at about 5:30 a.m. Thursday.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
NMHC RFP 2015-002
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

"ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN OF THE OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX TRACK AND FIELD RENOVATION DRAWINGS"

The Acting Chairman of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC"), a subsidiary public corporation of the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), a public corporation of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting sealed proposals for the DESIGN OF THE OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX TRACK AND FIELD RENOVATION DRAWINGS.

Proposal packets will be available on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled on Tuesday, March 03, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Any Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 234-9021, no later than Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

One (1) original and three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted in a sealed enveloped marked/stamped "Confidential" and labeled **"NMHC RFP 2015-002"**, to the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m., Friday, March 13, 2015.**

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its respective program Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to NMHC, which functions as the Public Housing Authority (PHA) for the Commonwealth.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/Tom Glenn Quitugua
Acting Chairman
Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director
Procurement and Supply

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Notice to the General Public and all Saipan-based Section 8 New Construction Multifamily Program Applicants

Mihaville and Koblerville Subdivisions
(February 10, 2015)

Pursuant to Section IX: Waiting List Management of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) revised Tenant Selection Plan, NMHC wants to respectfully inform the general public and all Saipan-based Section 8 New Construction Multifamily Program applicants of the following:

1. NMHC will **STOP** accepting applications for its Saipan-based Section 8 New Construction Multifamily Program for 2 bedroom units beginning on March 01, 2015, due to an excessive number of active Saipan applicants on the program's Waiting List. NMHC will notify the public as soon as it is ready to begin accepting applications.

2. NMHC will be updating the program's Waiting List for its Saipan-based Section 8 New Construction Multifamily Program for 2 bedroom units beginning on March 01, 2015, by removing applicants:

   a. Who are no longer interested in participating in the program;
   b. Who are no longer qualified for assisted housing; or
   c. Who fail to respond to a written request to update the information on their applications.

Written notices will be mailed out to every applicant listed on the program's waiting list. Upon receipt of a written notice, applicants are requested and **required** to contact NMHC at Tel. Nos. 234-6866 or 234-9447 or via email at housingdiv@nmhc.gov.mp.

Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to David Chargualaf, Program and Housing Division Manager, or Melinda Babauta at NMHC's Main Office on Saipan at any of the aforementioned telephone numbers or via email at phdmanager@nmhcgov.net and housingdiv@nmhc.gov.mp, respectively.

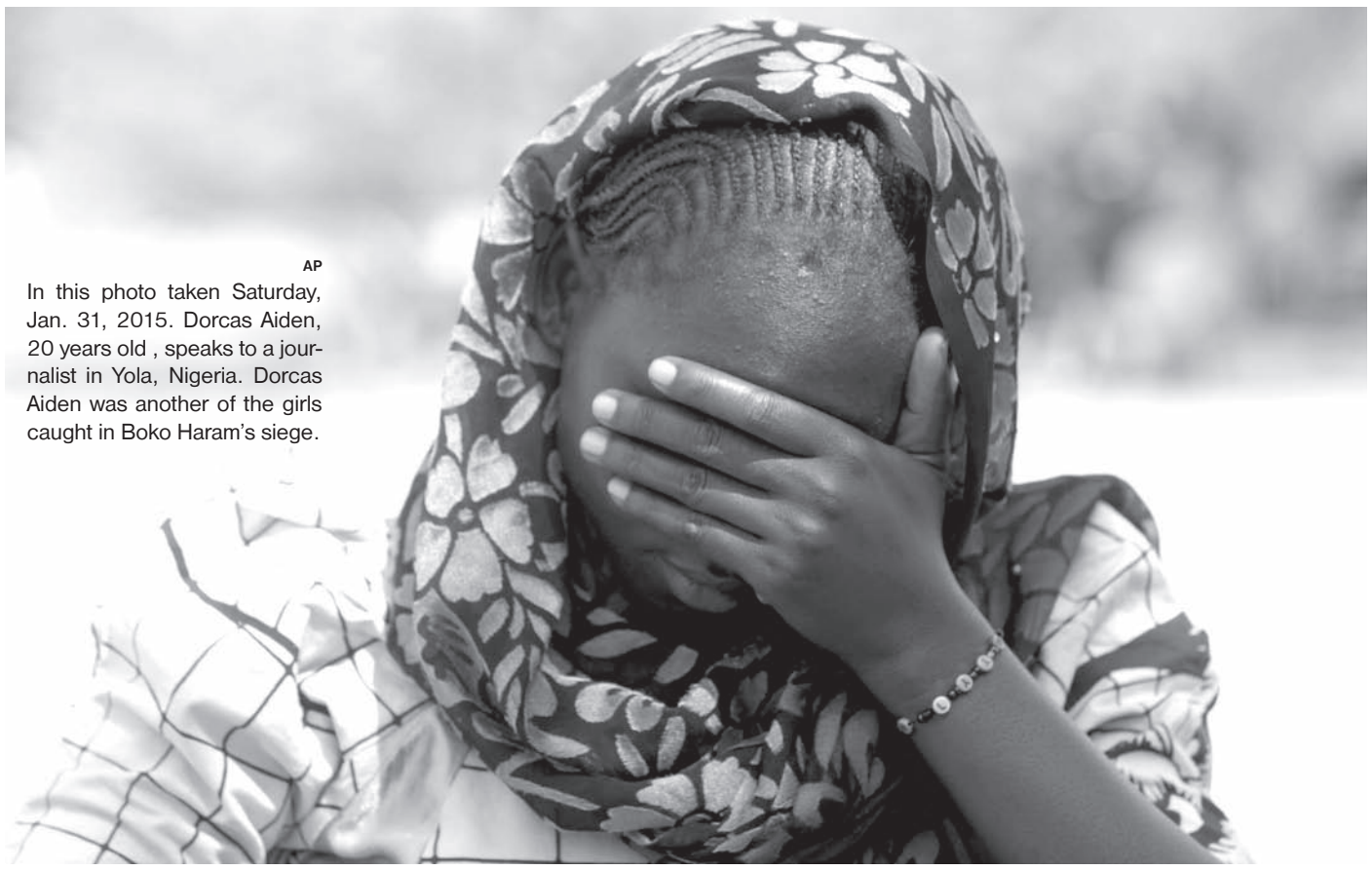
World

Boko Haram kidnaps hundreds, tells stories of Chibok girls

YOLA, Nigeria (AP)—When Islamic extremists snatched more than 270 girls from the Chibok boarding school in Nigeria in the dead of night, protests broke out worldwide. The U.S. pledged to help find them, and the (hash)BringBackOurGirls hashtag was born.

Some 10 months later, most are still missing. The Boko Haram extremist group sees the mass kidnapping as a shining symbol of success, and has abducted hundreds of other girls, boys and women. The militants brag to their new captives with claims that the Chibok girls surrendered, converted to Islam and married fighters.

"They told me the Chibok girls have a new life where they learn to fight," says Abigail John, 15, who was held by Boko Haram for more than four weeks before escaping. "They said we should be like them and accept Islam."



AP

In this photo taken Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015. Dorcas Aiden, 20 years old , speaks to a journalist in Yola, Nigeria. Dorcas Aiden was another of the girls caught in Boko Haram's siege.

The kidnappings reflect the growing ambition and brazenness of Boko Haram, which seeks to impose an Islamic state across Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. Some 10,000 people have died in the Islamic uprising over the past year, compared to 2,000 in the previous four years, according to the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations.

"It's devastating," said Bukky Shonibare, an activist in Abuja, of the kidnappings. "It makes you wonder, what is being done?"

John was among three girls interviewed by The Associated Press who recently escaped from Boko Haram. While their stories could not be independently verified, they were strikingly similar, and all spoke of their captors' obsession with the Chibok girls.

The girls had no idea whether the militants were telling the truth or making up stories to taunt their victims. John says the fighters enjoyed relating how they had whipped and slapped the Chibok girls until they submitted.

When the Nigerian air force dropped a bomb on the house where John was confined, she tried to escape, she says. She wrestled with the fighters, but they broke her am and hauled her off to another house.

At the end of last year, the Nigerian army liberated the town where she was held. She is now in Yola with her father, sister and six brothers, in a house overcrowded with refugees. She finally was able to get medical attention for her fractured right arm, which remains in a cast.

The kidnappings of the Chibok girls in April brought Boko Haram to the world's attention in a way the group could not have imagined. The hashtag (hash)BringBackOurGirls was tweeted more than 480,000 times globally in early May, and U.S. first lady Michelle Obama held it up in a sign to television cameras. She said at the time, "In these girls, Barack and I see our own daughters ...we can only imagine the anguish their parents are feeling right now."

On Wednesday, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan again promised the girls will be brought home alive, saying he is "more hopeful" about their fate now that a multinational force is being formed to fight Boko Haram.

"Give us some time over the Chibok girls. The story will be better in a few weeks," Jonathan promised, as he has many times in the past, on a nationally televised program.

Costa Concordia captain sentenced to 16 years in prison

GROSSETO, Italy (AP)—A court convicted the *Costa Concordia*'s commander of the manslaughter deaths of 32 people in the cruise liner's capsizing off the Italian coast and sentenced him Wednesday to some 16 years in prison, blaming him for causing the 2012 shipwreck and for doing what sea captains should never do—abandoning ship while passengers and crew were still aboard.

Francesco Schettino's total prison term broke down this way: 10 years for the deaths of 32 passengers and crew members; five years for causing the shipwreck when he steered too close to Giglio Island, smashing into a rocky reef, one year for abandoning the luxury vessel when hundreds of people were still aboard, and one month for giving false information to maritime authorities about the gravity of the *Concordia*'s collision, which prosecutors said delayed the arrival of help.

The punishment, handed down by a three-judge panel, was 10 years short of what prosecutors had sought, and left some survivors and victims' relatives wondering if justice was done.

``Thirty-two dead. That's about six months for every person who died," said Anne Decre, a Frenchwoman who managed to get aboard a lifeboat before the Concordia's listing made it impossible to lower other lifeboats. Referring to the 16-year prison term, she was one of only a handful of survivors who came to court to hear the verdict.

She is pressing for better safety standards for cruise ships, and like other survivors, recalled how many passengers hadn't received emergency drill practice after starting the Mediterranean cruise.

Keven Rebello's brother, Russel Rebello, was a ship waiter who stayed aboard to lower the last of the lifeboats. His body was found only after the *Costa Concordia* was towed away from Giglio Island after the ship was set upright in a spectacular engineering,

Leaders in Minsk for crucial Ukraine peace talks

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—The leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine negotiated into the early hours Thursday to try to find a way to halt the fighting in eastern Ukraine that has killed more than 5,300 people.

The talks on ending the conflict between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatist rebels came amid intense anxiety over the sharp spike in fighting in recent weeks, as Europe nervously awaits word on whether Washington will send lethal aid to Ukraine and as Russia's economy deteriorates under sanctions imposed by the West.

In a diplomatic blitz that began last week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande visited Kiev and Moscow to speak to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin, paving the way for the talks in the Belarusian capital, Minsk.

"The entire world is waiting to see whether the situation moves toward de-escalation, weapons pullback, cease-fire, or ... spins out of control," Poroshenko said upon arriving.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov signaled some progress, saying late Wednesday that the talks were "active, better than super." But it was unclear when a decision might be announced—and how soon the shooting would stop if an agreement is reached.

A top rebel official, Andrei Purgin, told Russian television that it might take a day or more for hostilities to end even if a cease-fire is called.

Details of a possible peace deal haven't been released, but key sticking points include:

■ Drawing a new line of division: Ukraine wants the same one that was agreed upon in September, while Russia wants a new line that reflects the rebels' significant territorial gains since then.

■ Withdrawing Russian troops and equipment from eastern Ukraine: Russia says it does not have any troops and military hardware in the east, a stance scoffed at by Ukraine and NATO.

■ Securing the Ukraine-Russia border: Ukraine wants to regain control of its border with Russia to stem the flow of Russian fighters and weapons, while Russia says that's up to the rebels who have captured some key border posts.

■ Giving the separatists more autonomy: Ukraine says it may offer them broad rights under Ukrainian law but Russia wants guarantees. Russia also wants Ukraine to end its financial blockade of the east.

WORLD BRIEFS

UN: At least 300 migrants missing in new sea tragedy

ROME (AP)—Some 300 migrants who tried to cross the frigid Mediterranean in open, rubber boats, were reported missing Wednesday by survivors as the U.N. refugee agency and other aid groups sharply criticized the new EU rescue operation as insufficient and costing lives. The suspected deaths add to the 29 reported earlier in the week by the Italian coast guard, which said those victims had died of hypothermia during the voyage that began over the weekend in Libya, where most smuggling operations originate. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said survivors had reported that four boats had left together, without food or water, and that the boats began taking on water almost immediately. Some 107 people had been rescued by the Italian coast guard and a merchant ship. The agency's spokeswoman in Italy, Carlotta Sami, said the victims had been "swallowed up by the waves," the youngest a child of 12.

Region feels ripples from Yemen's turmoil as embassies close

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—As Western diplomats and staff fled Yemen on Wednesday, concern widened over the increasing turmoil in the impoverished nation, with Saudi Arabia arming loyal tribesmen across its southern border and Egypt readying a military unit to intervene if needed. The U.S., British and French moved to close their embassies, signaling a belief that conditions in Yemen would only deteriorate further as the rebels, who have taken over in nearly half the provinces, try to expand their control.

In a show of bravado, the rebels seized about 20 vehicles left by U.S. diplomats and Marines at Sanaa's airport, officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press. The Americans evacuated after destroying documents and heavy weapons at the embassy.

Guantanamo 9/11 case resumes despite CIA-linked interpreter

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—A military judge allowed the Sept. 11 war crimes case to proceed Wednesday over objections from defense lawyers alarmed at the discovery a courtroom interpreter previously worked at a CIA "black site" where detainees were subjected to brutal interrogation. Army Col. James Pohl turned back requests to halt pretrial proceedings at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay while both defense lawyers and prosecutors try to determine how someone with such a background ended up in the high-profile case of five men charged in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack. Defendant Ramzi Binalshibh brought a hearing to a halt Monday when he told the judge that he recognized the interpreter, seated next to him in court for the first time, from a secret CIA prison where he was brutally interrogated before being moved to Guantanamo in September 2006. Three other defendants identified the man as well.

Off the Wall

Students given 'Fifty Shades' puzzles

MONESSEN, Pa. (AP)—Parents in a Pennsylvania school district are turning 50 shades of red over word search puzzles given to middle school students based on an erotic novel and movie.

The students in Monessen were given puzzles based on "Fifty Shades of Grey" that contained terms including "spanking," "submissive," "leather cuffs" and "bondage." Other words on the list were more explicit.

Parent James Carter complained about it at Tuesday night's school board meeting, saying he tried to question the school's principal and dean of students, but they refused to talk when he insisted on recording their conversation.

"I wanted to record the conversation because a lot of parents had questions about it, and I was denied that," Carter told the board.

Monessen district officials said at the meeting that they couldn't discuss the issue because they just learned about it Monday. Superintendent Leanne Spazak said the circumstances of the puzzle are under investigation.

One school board member who didn't attend the meeting told WTAE-TV that the puzzle was a big mistake.

"It was a huge but unintentional error and collected from the five students involved as soon as it was realized," Roberta Bergstedt wrote in an email. "Unfortunately one copy was taken by a student who then posted it on social media."

The movie opens in theaters Friday. It's based on a best-selling book by E L James about a college student and her torrid affair with a 27-year-old billionaire with a penchant for bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism.

Court rules against ex-teacher with a phobia of young kids

CINCINNATI (AP)—A retired teacher who sued a school district, saying administrators discriminated against her because of a phobia that makes her fear young children, lost her appeal in the federal case on Wednesday.

A three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati upheld a lower-court decision that had dismissed Maria Waltherr-Willard's breach-of-contract claim against Mariemont City Schools. The U.S. District Court in Cincinnati also had ruled in favor of the school district on her other claims, including age and disability discrimination.

Attorney Brad Weber, who represented Waltherr-Willard, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

The 63-year-old teacher, who had taught Spanish and French at Mariemont High School in Cincinnati since the 1970s, said she was transferred to a middle school in 2009. Her lawsuit said the seventh- and eighth-graders triggered her phobia, causing her blood pressure to soar and forcing her to retire in the middle of the 2010-11 school year. Her lawsuit sought unspecified damages.

An attorney for the school district had said Waltherr-Willard was transferred because the French program at the high school was being turned into an online one and the middle school needed a Spanish teacher. A message seeking comment was left for the district's attorney on Wednesday.

The appeals court said in its ruling that the lower court was correct in ruling in the school district's favor on the various claims. On the breach-of-contract issue, the court said Waltherr-Willard contended that her correspondence with several unidentified school officials created a contract that required Mariemont to keep her at the high school.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

75-year-old man tackles suspect, threatens to break his arm

WASHINGTON, Pa. (AP)—A 75-year-old man helped in the arrest of a shoplifting suspect at a Pennsylvania mall by tackling him and threatening to break his arm if he tried to escape. Charlie Burton, of Fombell, says he was a vendor at the Washington Crown Center mall for a gun show when he saw an officer struggling with the suspect, 29-year-old Jonathan Fekete Jr. Police say Fekete was trying to get away after taking $200 worth of clothes from a Macy's store Saturday. Burton says he ran over to help, grabbed the man's arms and forced him down. Burton says, "He started hollering his arm hurt, and I said, 'Quit struggling or I'll break the thing.'" Fekete is jailed. Court records don't list an attorney.

43-foot yacht blocks traffic in snow-clogged downtown Boston

BOSTON (AP)—A large truck towing an even bigger boat broke down in downtown Boston, snarling traffic in the heart of the city's bustling Financial District. WCVB-TV reports the 43-foot yacht Maggie Mae was being hauled Wednesday to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center for the New England Boat Show that starts Saturday when the truck stalled. Boston's narrow streets are tighter than usual because of heavy snow accumulation over the past two weeks. Workers eventually got the truck and boat out of the congested neighborhood.

Police: Man arrested in bizarre Nevada road-rage incident

SPARKS, Nev. (AP)—A Nevada man has been arrested on allegations that he shot another man in a bizarre road-rage incident that ended with the victim driving himself to the hospital in the suspect's pickup. Sparks police say 20-year-old Cesar Romero has been booked on several charges including assault with a deadly weapon. Witnesses told police the victim was driving an Audi on Tuesday morning when Romero allegedly ran him off a suburban street in a Toyota pickup truck. Police say Romero shot the man in the chest. They say the victim eventually wrestled the gun away from Romero and struck him in the head with a baseball bat before taking Romero's truck and driving himself to the hospital. Neither man suffered life-threatening injuries. Romero fled on foot but soon was apprehended.

2 sleeping in dumpster get emptied into garbage truck

AMPA, Fla. (AP)—Authorities in Florida say a man and woman who were intoxicated had to be rescued after falling asleep in a dumpster that was later emptied into a garbage truck. Hillsborough County Sheriff's officials say the couple had been sleeping in a dumpster outside a convenience store near Tampa early Wednesday. When the dumpster was emptied into the back of the garbage truck, they started screaming and banging on the sides of the truck. Rescue crews were called just after 5 a.m. They removed 37-year-old Donald L. Jordan and 49-year-old Lisa Sirbella from the truck. They were taken to Tampa General Hospital after complaining of back pain. Deputies originally believed they were homeless, but learned they were highly intoxicated after hanging out at a nearby casino.

Seattle burglar trying to escape gets stuck in air duct

SEATTLE (AP)—A burglary suspect who cut through the drywall of Seattle apartment building to try to escape capture got stuck in an air duct and had to be rescued by firefighters. KIRO reports that a resident of the complex caught the man Tuesday night stealing quarters from a soda machine in the laundry room. The burglar blocked the door and tried to get away by cutting through drywall. When he ran into a basement masonry wall, he tried to crawl out a vent but got trapped and had to call for help. Firefighters cut him free. When they asked if he needed medical attention, he said, "heroin."

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Partners in Education

Would like to acknowledge faithful sponsors who are committed to education in the CNMI. Thank you all for ensuring that our children receive the world's most up-to-date textbook: the newspaper.

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Mobil®
- Oleai Elementary School
- Garapan Elementary School
- W.S.R. Elementary School
- G.T.C. Elementary School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- San Vicente School
- Mouth Carmel School
- Seventh Day School

Tan Siu Lin Foundation
- Dandan Elementary School
- G.T. C. Elementary School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Oleai Elementary School
- Saipan Southern High School
- W.S.R. Elementary School
- Tanapag Middle School
- Kagman Elementary School

GOLD SPONSORS

Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center
- Oleai Elementary School
- Saipan Southern High School
- Koblerville Elementary School
- Kagman High School

COSMOS Distributing Co., Ltd / D&Q International Distributors
- Hopwood Jr. High School
- Marianas High School
- Garapan Elementary School
- Tanapag Middle School

SILVER SPONSORS

Bridge Capital, LLC
- Mount Carmel School
- Garapan Elementary School

Shirley's Coffee Shop
- San Antonio Middle School
- Oleai Elementary School

CO-SPONSORS

IT&E Life in Motion
- Saipan Southern High School

Richard & Marian Aldan Pierce
- W.S.R. Elementary School

SBR ENTERPRISES
- Green Meadow School

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic
- Seventh Day Adventist School

TakeCare®
- Grace Christian Academy

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway.

Science & Technology

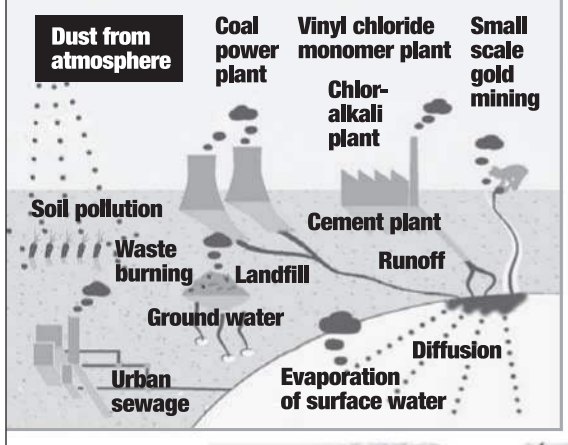
Science Matters

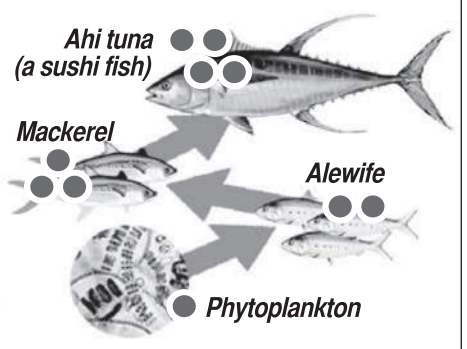
Mercury also flows through air

Industry, mining and solid waste carry mercury pollution into ground water and streams, but new research is pointing out another important source – airborne dust.

How it enters environment

Among these major pollution routes, winds can carry mercury dust long distances





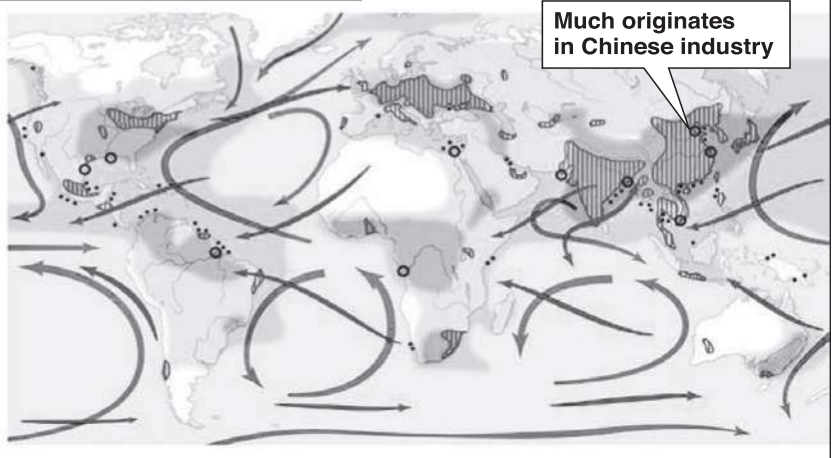
Bioaccumulation

Toxic methylmercury concentrates as it moves up through food chain

Long-lived top predator fish contain the highest levels of methylmercury

Mercury flows

Major sources
Major winds
Sea currents
Worst rivers
Flows into ocean
Heavier deposit
Lighter deposit



Source: Brian Popp of University of Hawaii at Manoa, Nature Geoscience, UN Environment Programme
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Britain starts public trial of driverless cars

LONDON (AP)—Driverless cars are hitting Britain's public roads for the first time, giving a glimpse of future travel that's billed as safer and more efficient.

Britain unveiled four prototype self-drive cars Wednesday, launching the country's first public trials ahead of a series of planned rule reviews to accommodate the new technology.

Officials showed off four types of autonomous vehicles under trial, including a shuttle that looks like a larger golf cart and a compact two-seater "pod." Journalists took short rides on the shuttle, which zipped around a public square outside central London's O2 Arena as curious pedestrians looked on.

The project was "still in the early days," Transport Minister Claire Perry said, but she added the new technology has the potential to make roads safer and attract global investment.

Britain has ambitions to lead development in driverless cars, which are also being tested in U.S. cities by companies including Google. Auto companies from Mercedes-Benz to Nissan are also developing self-drive vehicles, though most are not ready to go on public roads and highways commercially.

Regulation and legal changes are a major hurdle. Officials say fully driverless cars are unlikely to be used on British roads until 2030.

AP

A woman poses for photographers beside a prototype driverless car called a LUTZ (Low-carbon Urban Transport Zone) Pathfinder Pod during a launch event for the media near the O2 Arena in London, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015.

Britain's government, which is spending 19 million pounds (US$29 million) on four trial centers around the country, says it will amend and review domestic road regulations by 2017. One focus will be on establishing liability when a self-drive car crashes.

"Until that key concern is clarified, probably by statute, many drivers will remain wary of `driverless' driving," said Edmund King, president of drivers' organization AA.

The next immediate step is for officials to publish guidelines for companies to test the cars in "real-life scenarios" on roads—including highways—by this summer. Qualified drivers will be riding in the cars, ready to take control should anything go awry.

In Germany, which is also pushing for more automated driving, officials have designated a busy stretch of highway—a Bavarian stretch of the A9 autobahn connecting Munich and Berlin—for the testing of systems that measure and transmit to cars such conditions as ice, heat and potholes.

That stretch will eventually be able to handle driver-assistance systems and then fully automated vehicles, the ministry for transport and digital infrastructure said.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-15

INVITATION FOR BID

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Trash Collection Services for a period of two years at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Friday, January 30, 2015. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport, Project On. CPA-IFB-003-15". One original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Departure Terminal Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00 am, Friday, February 13, 2015 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders may attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of bidder's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Date: January 23, 2015

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
State Rehabilitation Council
P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449 E-mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2015 First General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at the Napu Room, Pacific Islands Club at 1:00-3:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2014 Fourth General Membership Joint Meeting Minutes of 9/26/14
V. Reports
a. SRC Chairperson
b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
c. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
d. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
e. Transportation, Housing, and Advocacy Committee Chairperson
f. OVR Director
VI. Old Business
a. Update on National Disability Employment Awareness Month Activities
VII. New Business
a. FY 2014 SRC-OVR Annual Report
b. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Activities – March 2015
c. Other Collaborative Efforts (Quarterly Newsletter, Resource Directory, Mental Health First Aid Training, etc.)
d. Training and Technical Assistance - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
e. Review of SRC Membership Composition
f. Review of SRC Membership Attendance
VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) three days before the meeting.

/s/ PAMELA C. SABLAN
Chairperson

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Life & Style

Comedy Central has 'short list' for Jon Stewart replacement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedy Central is mulling a "short list" of replacements for "Daily Show" host Jon Stewart, a decision that could affect how much influence the show has on the 2016 presidential campaign.

Also at issue: Whether Stewart, an executive producer for "Daily Show" as well as host, retains some role with the show that has helped shape attitudes toward politics and media and given campaigns an appealing forum to reach potential voters, especially younger ones.

"TBD," said Doug Herzog, president of Viacom Entertainment Group, using the shorthand for "to be determined," when asked if Stewart would keep a hand in.

"It's not out of the question," Herzog added.

Stewart

Stewart, 52, announced Tuesday that he will leave the host's job this year, a move that had been was closely held by him and the channel. The timing of his exit has yet to be determined, and Stewart did not say what he plans to do afterward.

"I think Jon wanted to get this off his chest and put it out there. He's been carrying this for a little while, and now we'll have to discuss" the next steps, Herzog said. "He'll take a deep breath, as will we, and figure out what's best for Jon Stewart and best for `The Daily Show,' in that order."

He declined to comment on when Stewart, whose contract is up this fall told Comedy Central of his decision to leave.

Herzog said "there's a short list" of possible Stewart replacements, declining to provide specifics. It's uncertain whether it includes former "Daily Show" correspondent John Oliver, who moved to HBO after successfully filling in for Stewart when he took a movie-making break.

Asked about whether Oliver is a candidate, Herzog's reply was succinct.

"John Oliver's got a job," he said.

Asked if that meant he was not under consideration, Herzog said: "I think he's spoken for."

Whoever is chosen has heavy lifting to do.

"It's almost impossible to estimate the impact that Jon Stewart has had on correcting misinformation in the media and calling out our politicians when they need to be called out," said Sophia McClennen, a Penn State professor and author of "Is Satire Saving Our Nation?: Mockery and American Politics."

And that was felt in the halls of power.

Stewart had a "very special talent for putting fear in everybody from the candidate to the operative to the intern, should they do something wrong, say something wrong. You knew it might be immortalized on 'The Daily Show,'" said Kevin Madden, who was a campaign adviser for Mitt Romney in 2008 and 2012.

Even former President Bill Clinton felt compelled to weigh in, although lightheartedly.

"Jon Stewart's departure raises 2 Qs: 1) Where will I get my news each night? 2) Does this mean he's doing a sequel to Death to Smoochy?" Clinton posted on Twitter, including a reference to a 2002 comedy in which Stewart appeared.

Candidates may still count on a post-Stewart "Daily Show" appearance, hoping to reach its young adult viewers and the potential votes they represent, said Rich Galen, a Republican consultant who worked on former Sen. Fred Thompson's presidential campaign.

'SNL' celebrates 4 decades of being 'Live, from New York!'

NEW YORK (AP)—"Saturday Night Live," which has never shied from self-congratulation with countless best-of, holiday and anniversary shindigs, is doing it again, big-time.

"The SNL 40th Anniversary Special," three hours of it, will air live on Sunday at 8pm EST on NBC.

Everyone who has ever been an "SNL" regular, guest host, musical guest or behind-the-scenes creative force has been invited. Indeed, it seems every boldface name who ever tuned in to watch might be showing up at fabled Studio 8H. Attendees announced so far range from Dan Aykroyd, Alec Baldwin and Robert De Niro to Kanye West, Betty White and Kristen Wiig. And to welcome them all, the "Today" show anchor team will host "The SNL 40th Red Carpet Live" at 7 p.m. EST.

"We waited to see who RSVPed, then we started thinking about what we could do with the people we knew were coming," said Lorne Michaels last week. "We're still working on it, as more people reply."

The show will include sketches and other comedy bits employing what Michaels calls "a mash-up of different generations, so you'll see people working with people they never actually worked with" as "SNL" regulars.

"SNL" was born as the brainchild of Michaels, then 31, who today, at 70, remains very much hands-on. He's also very much in charge of Sunday's retrospective.

He pointed with special satisfaction to the expected return of Eddie Murphy, among the series' biggest discoveries whose "SNL" tenure fell during Michaels' absence between 1980 and 1985.

"Eddie Murphy coming is a huge thing," says Michaels, adding that his role in the proceedings "is still being worked out, but he's been very open to different ideas.

"I know this sounds weird, because we've been working on the show for eight months, but we still have nine days." That's an eternity, as "SNL" has demonstrated with its breakneck six-day cycle for decades.

AP

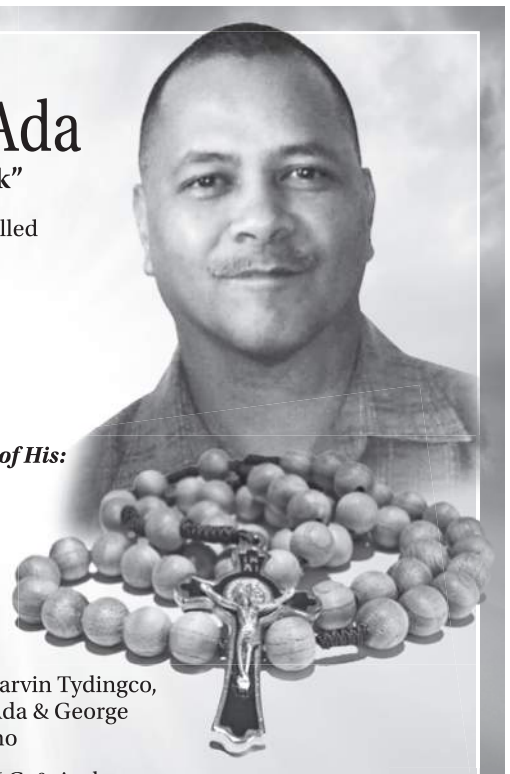
In this Sept. 13, 2008 photo released by NBC, Tina Fey portrays Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, left, and Amy Poehler as Sen. Hillary Clinton during a skit on "Saturday Night Live," in New York.

In Loving Memory of

†Raymond Sablan Ada

Better known as "Ramon Madduk"

Born to life on October 08, 1968 and was called to his eternal rest on February 09, 2015.



In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Brother: †Alvin S. Ada
Mother In-Law: †Ana Aldan DLGuerrero
Goddaughter: †Rica Shavonne H. Ada
Nephew: †Joseph Anthony T. DLGuerrero

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of His:
Wife: Velma Yvette Naomi DLG.-Ada
Children: Joshua H. Ada
Gregorio A. DLG Ada
Juan Isaiah DLG Ada
Giovanni Raymond DLG Ada

Parents: Juan Lizama & Maria Sablan Ada
Father In-Law: Gregorio C. DLGuerrero
Brother, Sisters, and In-Laws: Melva Ada & Marvin Tydingco, Juan S. & Carrie DLR. Ada, Valerie Ada & George Tydingco, Tina Ada & Peter Camacho

Brothers In-Law and Sisters In-Law: Lillian DLG. & Ambrose Bennet, Gregorio Jr. & Rowena DLGuerrero, Patrick & Simplicia DLGuererro, Joseph A. DLGuerrero, Meliza DLG. & Anthony Babauta

He will also be remembered and missed by numerous cousins, aunties, uncles, nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives and friends.

Nightly Mass and Holy Rosary is being offered at San Antonio Church at the following dates and times.

Friday, February 13, 2015	**Rosary 5:00 P.M.**	**Mass 6:00 P.M.**
Saturday, February 14, 2015	**Rosary 5:30 P.M.**	**Mass 6:00 P.M.**
Sunday, February 15, 2015	**Mass 9:00 A.M.**	**Rosary followed after Mass**
Monday, February 16, 2015	**Rosary 5:30 P.M.**	**Mass 6:00 P.M.**
Tuesday, February 17, 2015	**Rosary 12:00 P.M.**	**Mass 6:00 P.M.** ***(Joined with Our Lady of Fatima)***

FUNERAL SERVICE DETAILS WLL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase – Thank You

Velma DLGuerrero-Ada, Children and Family

In Celebration of His New Life

†Arturo Cabales Travilla

July 19, 1942 – February 09, 2015

In His New life, He now joins His:
Father: †Felix Travilla
Mother: †Jovita Cabales Travilla
Father In law: †Victor M. Baay
Mother In law: †Pacita I. Zantua

His memories will forever live in the hearts of His:
Wife: Vilma Baay Travilla

Son and Grandchildren:

Felix Owen Baay Travilla (Jan-Nasia Jean Zandueta Travilla, Jennalyn Rose Zandueta Travilla, Arturo Rodrigo Zandueta Travilla)

Brothers & Sisters and In-Laws:
†Roberto Cabales /Crisanta Masocol Travilla
†Eliseo Cabales/Auro Reforma Travilla
Winefreda Travilla /†Robert Felix Strong
Lolita Travilla /Lorenzo Lim
†Leodegario Cabales/Alma Travilla
†Reynaldo Cabales /†Teresita Travilla

Brothers In-Law and Sisters In-Law:

Noeme/†Miguel Eleazar	Victor Jr. /Josie Baay
Nenita/†Diosdado Tolentino	Nestor/Cristy Baay
Ruben/Linda Baay	Eleanor/Arnel Tan
Manuel/Bella Abrera	Merlyn/Louie San Juan

He will be greatly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions for the repose of His soul are being celebrated daily at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. His remains will lie in state at their residence in Afetnas and will be taken to San Antonio Church at 8:00 am. Responso Service will be at 8:15 am followed by Holy Rosary at 8;30 am. Mass Of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am and Interment Service will take place at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in Prayers,
Maraming Salamt Po, Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Vilma Baay Travilla, Felix Owen, Children and Family

Kanye West rolls back diss of Beck, calls Grammys a joke

NEW YORK (AP)—Kanye West says he has nothing but respect for Beck. The Grammys? Not so much.

West paid a visit on Ryan Seacrest and his "On Air" radio show Wednesday to expound on his post-Grammy diss of the surprise Album of the Year winner.

The rapper walked up the steps at the Staples Center in Los Angeles as Beck was accepting his award Sunday night but retreated before re-enacting his interruption of Taylor Swift at the 2009 VMAs. During an aftershow on E!, West ranted that Beck should "respect artistry" and turn over his statue to fellow nominee Beyonce.

West told Seacrest of his stair-climbing antics: "It was kind of a joke like the Grammys themselves."

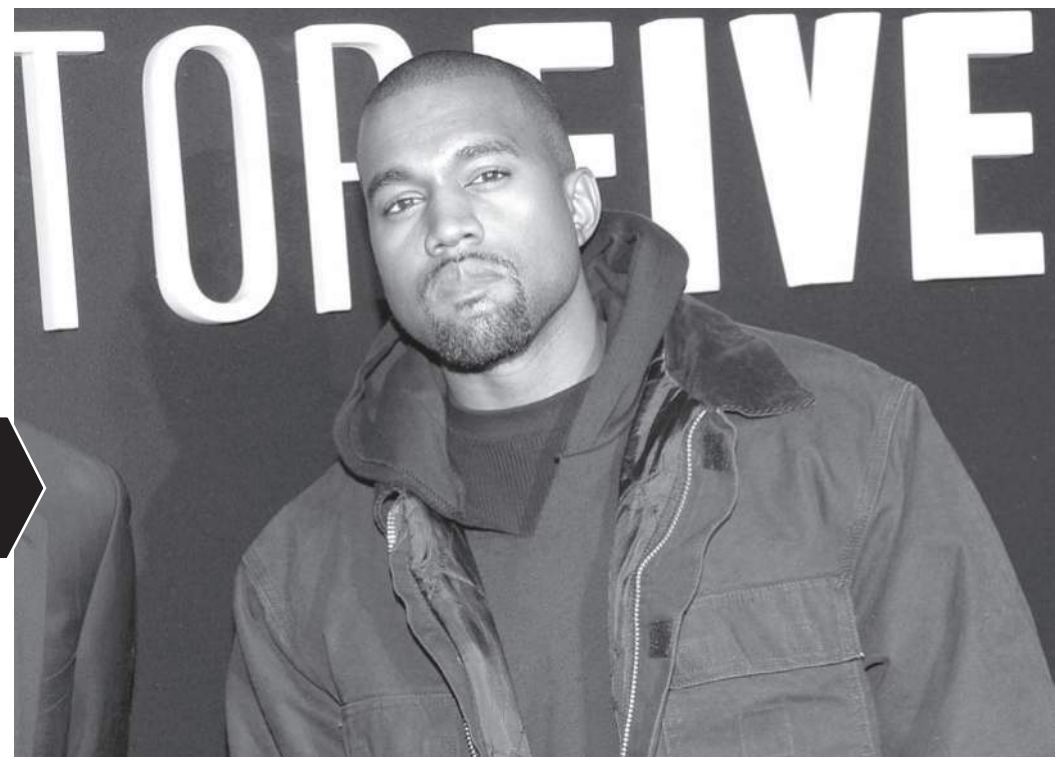
And the post-show tirade?

"This is our Super Bowl, you know, and someone's gotta be mad that Marshawn didn't get the ball," he said. Marshawn being Beyonce in this scenario but Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch in actual life.

As for "respecting artistry," West explained he was upset that Beck didn't mention other nominees as worthy in the category during his speech.

"Beck is one of the nicest guys and one of the most respected musicians in the game, so it's nothing that I would want to do as a fellow musician, to disrespect him in any way," he said. "That was a miswording on my part."

West went on to describe the Grammys thusly: "They're like a broke clock. They're right only, like, twice a day."



AP
In this Dec. 3, 2014 file photo, Kanye Wests attend the premiere of "Top Five" at the Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

Man pleads no contest to burglarizing Miley Cyrus' home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A convicted burglar has pleaded no contest to breaking into Miley Cyrus' home last year.

The Los Angeles district attorney's office says Rusty Edward Sellner entered the plea to one count of first-degree residential burglary Wednesday.

The 22-year-old had also been charged with receiving stolen property and grand theft. He is due back in court for sentencing April 1.

Prosecutors say Sellner broke into Cyrus' Toluca Lake home Dec. 16 and stole a large amount of property belonging to her and her brother.

Sellner has previous convictions for burglary and evading arrest.

AP
In this Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015 file photo, Miley Cyrus arrives at the 57th annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Cyrus has listed the home for sale.

Lawyer: Video shows ambush of former rap mogul 'Suge' Knight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawyer for Marion "Suge" Knight said Wednesday that members of his office have reviewed video that appears to show the former rap mogul was ambushed before two men were hit with his truck and one was killed.

David Kenner said the surveillance video came from a Compton burger stand where Knight struck the men on Jan. 29.

Asked what the video showed, Kenner replied, "An ambush."

He declined to discuss specifics of the footage but said it would aid in Knight's defense against murder, attempted murder and hit-and-run charges.

Knight, 49, has pleaded not guilty to the charges and remained jailed without bail.

Kenner said details about the confrontation that killed Terry Carter, 55, has been one-sided and he urged people to keep an open mind.

A phone message seeking comment about the video from sheriff's Lt. John Corina was not immediately returned.

Kenner criticized previous statements made by Corina that Knight had repeatedly struck actor and film consultant Cle "Bone" Sloan, who was injured by the truck.

Corina has said witnesses told investigators it looked like an intentional act.

Authorities said they do not believe Carter was involved in the altercation.

Knight is the co-founder of Death Row Records, which once boasted Dr. Dre, Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg as its artists.

Details about the video were first reported by celebrity website TMZ.

Kenner appeared on Knight's behalf at a brief hearing Wednesday on an unrelated robbery charge filed after a celebrity photographer reported that Knight and comedian Katt Williams stole her camera.

Both men have pleaded not guilty in that case.

Prosecutors later added a felony charge against Knight alleging he made criminal threats toward the photographer. Knight has not yet been arraigned on that charge.

Deputy District Attorney Keri Modder said at the hearing that she wants Knight's bail increased to $1 million now that he has been charged with murder.

Kenner said he will oppose the motion at a Feb. 19 hearing.

CBS: '60 Minutes' correspondent Bob Simon killed in crash

NEW YORK (AP)—CBS says longtime `60 Minutes' correspondent Bob Simon has been killed in New York City car crash.

He was 73 years old.

The crash happened Wednesday in Manhattan. Police say a town car in which he was a passenger hit another car.

Simon and the town car's driver were taken to a hospital, where Simon was pronounced dead.

Simon covered stories including the Vietnam War and the Oscar-nominated movie "Selma" in a career spanning five decades.

Harold Holzer wins $50,000 Lincoln Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Harold Holzer, a longtime Abraham Lincoln scholar, has won a $50,000 prize for a book about the president and his relationship with the media.

Holzer's "Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion" has been chosen for the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, announced Wednesday and administered by Gettysburg College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Holzer has also written "Lincoln President-Elect," "Lincoln at Cooper Union" and numerous other works.

Previous recipients of the Lincoln prize include Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ken Burns and Eric Foner. Last year, Steven Spielberg was voted a Special Achievement Award for the movie "Lincoln."

Younger brother tiptoes around bringing older girlfriend home

DEAR ABBY: My younger brother is 25. Three or four months ago he got out of a six-year relationship. He is now dating his former boss, a woman who is at least 15 years older than he is. As far as I know, I'm the only one he's told.

I recently asked him how the romance was going and he told me things are great. He also said he's worried about how to let the rest of our family know about this new relationship. Do you have any advice I could give him about revealing something that's sure to shock some members of our family?

WORRIED OLDER BROTHER IN KANSAS CITY, MO.

DEAR WORRIED: Yes. Tell him all he has to do is bring his new love interest to the next family gathering. (You can be in charge of supplying the smelling salts.)

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I completed construction on our retirement home five years ago. Even though we're not retired, we were able to move in. We are now 3 1/2 hours away from family.

We have repeatedly invited family members to enjoy our hospitality at holiday or vacation time. Some of them have taken us up on the invitation at least once. However, one of my brothers has never been here.

We have a lovely log cabin on a lake, and it can accommodate ALL family members for a gathering. Our relatives cite the long drive as the reason for staying away, while they think nothing of taking a hunting or fishing trip nearby.

I have stopped asking. My mom thinks I should continue extending invitations. Truthfully, it is a lot less work and expense to NOT host. Who's right?

ENOUGH ALREADY IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ENOUGH: You are. By now your relatives are well aware that they are welcome. Continue to invite those who have accepted and reciprocated your hospitality, because it should be apparent that the ones who have declined are not interested. And explain that to your mother, who long ago should have stopped telling you what to do.

DEAR ABBY: Have you or any of your female readers experienced this medical phenomenon with their male partners? When I open my mouth to speak, I can literally hear my husband's ears slam shut! Repeating everything seems to be a side effect for those of us living with someone with this disease. Does anyone know of a cure?

TIRED OF TALKING TO MYSELF

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

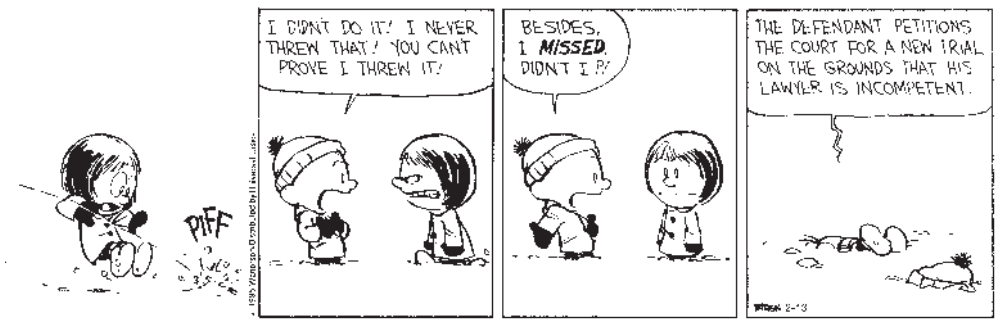
DEAR TIRED: Alas, I can't answer from personal experience because every time I open my mouth to speak, my husband rushes forward to catch the pearls of wisdom I'm spewing. However, I suspect that what you're experiencing may be a widespread phenomenon that happens when any woman suggests something her spouse doesn't want to hear. Readers, what do you think?

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

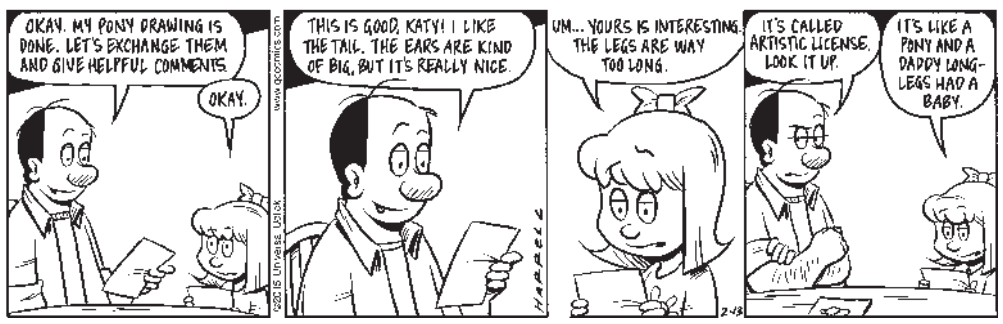

PIFF
I DIDN'T DO IT! I NEVER THREW THAT! YOU CAN'T PROVE I THREW IT!
BESIDES, I MISSED. DIDN'T I?
THE DEFENDANT PETITIONS THE COURT FOR A NEW TRIAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT HIS LAWYER IS INCOMPETENT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

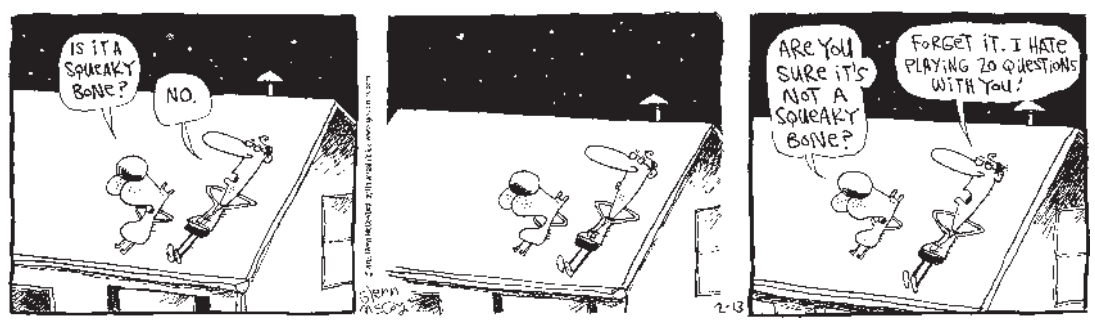
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. MY PONY DRAWING IS DONE. LET'S EXCHANGE THEM AND GIVE HELPFUL COMMENTS.
OKAY.
THIS IS GOOD, KATY! I LIKE THE TAIL. THE EARS ARE KIND OF BIG, BUT IT'S REALLY NICE.
UM... YOURS IS INTERESTING. THE LEGS ARE WAY TOO LONG.
IT'S CALLED ARTISTIC LICENSE. LOOK IT UP.
IT'S LIKE A PONY AND A DADDY LONG-LEGS HAD A BABY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

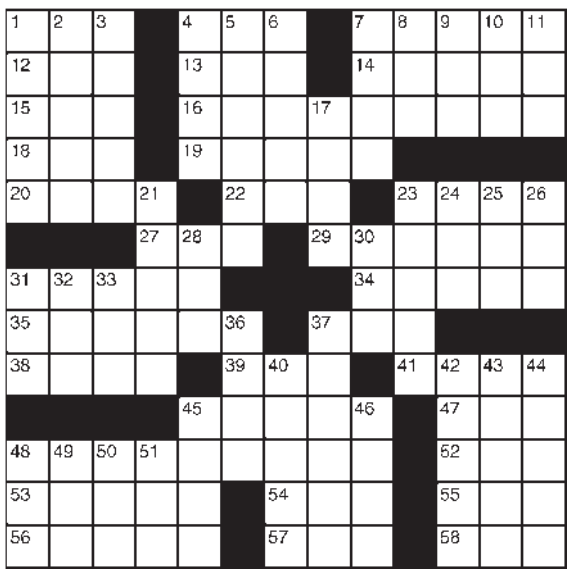
ACROSS
1 Prop for Gehrig
4 Bro or sis
7 Nibbles
12 Commotion
13 Opposite of vert.
14 With no omissions
15 Torched
16 With insistence
18 Vast expanse
19 Karaoke props
20 "— Lang Syne"
22 Fresh
23 Young horse
27 Eisenhower
29 Famish
31 Give a speech
34 War correspondent, today
35 Lynx
37 Tiny
38 Craving
39 "Eeew-www!"
41 Fix a sock
45 First pig's building material
47 Chart format
48 Come about
52 Spring mo.
53 "Anywhere else!" acronym
54 Dry red wine, familiarly
55 Gun the engine
56 Mornay, e.g.
57 Small salamander
58 Take a whack at

DOWN
1 Lightweight wood
2 Farewell
3 Sum
4 Counterfeit
5 Common antiseptic
6 Slow a car down
7 Prejudice
8 Hostel
9 Body art, for short
10 Right angle
11 Cunning
17 Royal stables
21 Discard
23 Renowned
24 Scepter topper
25 "Hail, Caesar!"
26 Started
28 Mauna —
30 Shirt shape
31 Kimono closer
32 Deteriorate
33 Easy as —
36 Frill for Fonteyn
37 "Suppose ..."
40 Barely hit
42 Separated
43 More mature
44 Brash
45 Eyelid woe
46 Departed
48 Navy rank (Abbr.)
49 By way of
50 Ostrich's cousin
51 Brian Williams' employer

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	D		S	T	U	B		P	A	P	A
E	C	C		N	O	N	E		U	S	E	R
D	O	G	W	O	O	D	S		R	A	R	E
		G	O	O		O	F	D	I	P	U	S
B	R	E	E	Z	E			U	I			
E	E	R		E	R	A		B	A	D	G	E
T	E	E	M		E	A	R		N	O	L	A
A	D	L	I	B		M	U	G		G	E	T
			S	A	C		B	L	A	M	E	S
P	H	A	R	A	O	H		O	V	A		
I	U	I	U		D	O	G	W	A	T	C	H
E	L	U	L		A	O	N	E		I	H	A
D	A	M	E		S	P	U	R		C	O	V

Yesterday's answer 2-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mena Suvari, 36; Kelly Hu, 47; Peter Gabriel, 65; Stockard Channing, 71.

Happy Birthday: Protection and preservation will be necessary this year. Problems with authority, government agencies, institutions and large corporations are best taken care of quickly. Procrastination will lead to criticism and outside interference. Simplify your life instead of letting it get more complicated. Don't be afraid to apply a little pressure if it will help get things done. Take care of unfinished business. Your numbers are 2, 10, 12, 24, 31, 40, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Consider your professional options and prepare to make whatever changes are necessary to ensure you can maintain your position. Use your intelligence to come up with a game plan that will fit your lifestyle and your budget. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Focus on details and making positive progress. Sign up for a class, visit someone who is well-connected, or make personal improvements that will add to your marketability. The more initiative you show, the further you will go. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do what you can to impress the people who are responsible for your advancement. A disciplined, self-motivated approach to your job will separate you from the competition. Someone you least expect will try to make you look bad. Protect your position. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Aggressive action will pay off if coupled with discipline and hard work. Don't let anyone slow you down. Love is in the stars and a romantic evening will enhance an important relationship. A professional or personal move should be considered. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel will entice you. A romantic encounter may be costly, but the experience will be priceless. Strive to be around people who can challenge you mentally and emotionally. Shake up your routine, and you will find alternative solutions. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep a healthy distance from anyone complaining or making demands. Self-improvement projects should be your target. If you work toward being happy with who you are, how you look and what you do, you will have no regrets. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Small, simple changes will bring the best results. It's important to pay more attention to quality and detail rather than quantity. Taking a serious approach to domestic situations will help you avoid complaints and confusion. Procrastination will set you back. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take the initiative when it comes to personal self-improvement. Challenge yourself mentally and physically, and you will get great satisfaction knowing what you can accomplish. Love is on the rise and will improve your attitude. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A challenging situation will develop if you dodge emotional issues. A change in a close personal relationship will leave you feeling uncertain. Take time out to rediscover what you want and how to go about getting it. Self-discipline will be required. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't initiate change, but be fully prepared to deal with the inevitable situations that unfold around you. Remember past goals and try to resurrect some of the activities that used to bring you joy. Be open to compromise. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Remember past mistakes and re-evaluate your present situation. Don't allow your emotions to lead you in the wrong direction. Do your best to stabilize your position. You are in a better spot than you realize. Make your next move count. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll face emotional uncertainty. Avoid conversations that have the potential to back you into a corner. Put your needs first or you will end up having regrets. Taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you will lead to resentment. Stick close to home. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, dramatic and impulsive. You are gutsy and dynamic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2			8			
		9	6		1	7		
	7						9	
	3		7		4		1	
	2		3		5		4	
	4						7	
		3	8		9	6		
		8				5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	9	8	3	6	2	7	1	4
2	4	3	7	1	9	5	6	8
7	6	1	8	4	5	2	9	3
8	7	6	4	2	3	9	5	1
4	2	5	1	9	7	3	8	6
3	1	9	5	8	6	4	7	2
9	5	4	6	3	1	8	2	7
6	3	7	2	5	8	1	4	9
1	8	2	9	7	4	6	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/13

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BACON JAM Solution: 6 letters

R	P	P	I	L	I	H	C	S	A	L	T	Y	R	F
A	E	O	D	A	E	R	B	E	I	K	C	A	P	O
G	P	T	I	A	O	A	V	O	C	A	D	O	O	O
E	P	A	T	N	C	R	B	I	S	I	H	E	L	D
N	E	T	I	U	I	O	H	E	I	C	L	T	L	P
I	R	O	O	Ⓡ	B	T	F	L	M	S	L	S	A	R
V	N	E	S	A	Ⓐ	T	S	F	M	G	I	A	C	O
S	O	S	D	G	S	Ⓙ	U	O	E	G	F	T	S	C
P	B	Y	A	U	N	T	B	N	R	E	I	S	Y	E
I	R	K	R	S	C	I	S	E	A	C	W	S	R	S
C	U	O	K	R	S	E	P	B	S	E	H	S	U	S
E	O	M	I	C	R	I	R	P	E	E	P	E	P	O
S	B	S	U	I	Z	I	E	T	I	O	E	A	W	R
H	P	I	T	Z	E	S	A	V	O	R	Y	H	R	Y
A	T	S	A	P	P	I	D	N	R	E	D	I	C	G

© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderworc.com Join us on Facebook 2/13

Avocado, Biscuit, Boil, Bourbon, Bread, Brie, Cheese, Chewy, Chili, Chop, Cider, Coffee, Crisp, Crostini, Dark, Dip, Drippings, Eggs, Fill, Food Processor, Fry, Grape, Heat, Jar, Onions, Pack, Pasta, Peanut Butter, Pepper, Pizza, Potatoes, Reduce, Salty, Savory, Scallop, Simmer, Slice, Smoky, Spices, Spoon, Spread, Stir, Sugar, Sweet, Syrup, Taste, Thick, Toast, Vinegar

Yesterday's Answer: Grilling

The **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2** is here! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: That beats everything

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

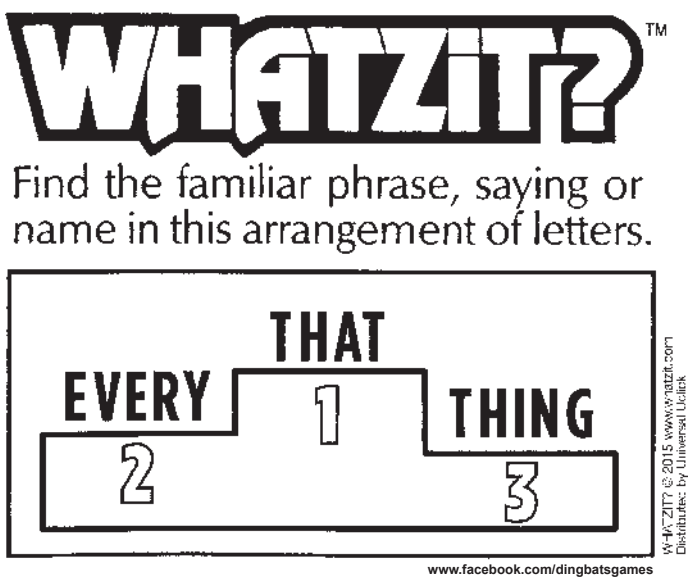
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG SKY CHEFS is looking for the following positions:

- **Cook/Butcher**
- **Cook Helper**
- **Counter Attendant**
- **CSC Driver**
- **Warehouse Worker**
- **CS/QA Admin Clerk**

Requirements: Superior Court and District/Federal Court Police Clearances and Health Certificate. Applications are available at the Main Office located on airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office.

No phone calls please.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities for at least 2 years. Must be computer literate in Microsoft Word and Email. With experience in preparing of reports and schedules for sports activities and with good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, February 23, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Specialized Truck Driver
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than February 20, 2015.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Employment Opportunity

The NMI Board of Nursing seeks a Full time Administrative Assistant:

Essential competencies
1. Communications
2. Organizatonal Skills
3. Computers: Data Base management

Qualifications
High School graduate with at least two (2) years experience in data entry and customer service. Must have strong administrative skills are required, as well as advanced computer skills including knowledge of MS word, Excel and power point.

Closing Date: February 13th, 2015.

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
CBNE Board
Email: nmibon@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

1 - ENGINEER/ FOREMAN
Salary: $ 1,800.00 / Month
Must have 10 yrs. experience.

1 - H.E. MECHANIC / OPERATOR
Salary: $ 6.50 / hour
Must have 5 yrs. experience.

Success International Inc.
Lower Base, Saipan.
(670) 322-1988

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **$500**/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:
- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8.

Pacific Islands Club Saipan

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

COOK

Minimum one (1) year related work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

CLUBMATE

Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

EMPLOYMENT

(2) Embroiderer. Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/ embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Multi tasking. Island Apparel. P.O. Box 502912 Saipan MP, 96950. No phone call please. Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com

FINANCIAL INVESTMENT SERVCIES

Do you want your money to grow?? Let Premiere Capital Investments, LLC. get you there. Specializing in stocks and options investments. Call Wallace at (670) 484-4071 or (671) 687-5863 and invest NOW!!

FREE ROOM RENTAL

In exchange for Part-Time Child Care Service in Chalan Piao. Call Ray at 234-7291.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Oxford Institute Academy, LLC
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Operations Manager
(2) Music Teachers

$6.50/hour to $15.00/hour

- Must have 5 years' experience
- Able to play Piano & Violin
- College Graduade

If interested, send resume to PMB 365 Box 10000 or email reginasaipan@hotmail.com

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Marianas Management Corporation
is currently seeking for
AC TECHNICIAN
Interested applicants may send resume to hrd3@joeten.com or may pick up an application at Joeten Susupe Bldg., 2nd Floor
Marianas Management Corporation is an equal opportunity employer

---

TIAN ZI CORP.
dba JENNY'S BEAUTY SALON
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager - Chinese speaking a plus
(1) Beautician
Interested applicants, please call 235-5588

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
(1) Auto Mechanic

- High School Graduate
- With at least one (1) year experience in this field
- Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience

All interested applicants may personally drop your resume and recent police clearance at
DPA CARMART
San Antonio, Saipan
or email us at: dpacarmart@gmail.com
Cell No. 287-8688

SAM CORP dba: Pacific Distillery
Is looking for the following position
JVA 15-02-30176
1-"Makgeolli" rice wine brewer, must be able to produce "nuruk" from scratch or from starter kits. 1 -2 years' experience is required. Able to produce different flavors from local produce.
Salary is $7.05 to $10.05/hour

SAM CORP dba: Samcorp Imports & Wholesale
Is looking for the following position
JVA 15-02-30175
2-Sales and marketing for liquor, wine and tobacco. Must be able to supervise store, make sales calls, also make delivery and set up promotions. Knowledge in liquors, wine and tobacco is a plus. Must have own transportation and be able to work night shifts.
Salary is $6.05 to $7.05/hour

Send your resume to: ric@samcorpimports.com for interview

---

masterpiece
CREATIVITY LIVES HERE

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

PUBLICIST/MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Advertising agency is in search of a dynamic, Saipan-based Publicist/Marketing Executive to join our Saipan office. In the area of public relations, the successful Candidate must possess excellent written and oral communications skills, as well as expertise in the areas of media relations and placements, interview coordination and executive coaching. In their Marketing capacity, the successful Candidate will serve as liaison between agency and client. This will require superior organizational skills in order to handle a high volume of workflow and translate the agency's work to other executives and departments within the organization, as well as to local vendors.

Minimum Bachelor of Arts in Marketing, Communications or Public Relations required. Salary & Benefits commensurate with experience. If interested, email cover letter and resume along with salary requirements to getcreative@masterpieceadvertising.com.

Sharky's BAR AND GRILL

in Garapan is hiring the following positions

2 Bartenders: Must be 21+, able to perform all duties of a bartender, must be able to speak English and/or any secondary language (preferably Korean, Japanese, and/or Chinese), minimum of 1 year experience. You must be able to legally work in the NMI. Local hire preferred.
Salary: Negotiable

6 Waitress/Servers: Must be 18+, able to perform all duties of a waitress, must be able to speak and write English and/or any secondary language (preferably Korean, Japanese, and/or Chinese), no experience necessary. You must be able to legally work in the NMI. Local hire preferred.
Salary: Negotiable

3 Cook: Must be 21+, able to perform all duties of a cook, must be able to speak English, minimum of 2 year experience necessary. Preferred specialties are BBQ and American/Local style dishes. You must be able to legally work in the NMI. Local hire preferred.
Salary: Negotiable

1 Sushi Chef: Must be 21+, able to perform all duties of a sushi chef, must be able to speak English, minimum 1 year experience necessary, must be knowledgeable in local fishes.
You must be able to legally work in the NMI. Local hire preferred.
Salary: Negotiable

1 Car-washer/Driver: Must be able to drive with clean driving records, must be able to drive manual and transmissions. Primary duty will be washing cars and moving cars between car lots.
Must be able to speak and write English. Local hire only
Salary: Current minimun wage

All parties interested, please email:
sharkys@experiencesaipan.com
Please pick up your application between 12-6 pm (M-F) at the old Volcano Bar, currently Pretty Car Rental located between "I Love Saipan" and "Duty Free" in Garapan, or call (287-8893) for more information.

WE ARE HIRING NOW!

TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!

Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports*, the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!

Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*. Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-007

CUC POWER PLANT BUILDING LOWER ROOF REPLACEMENT AT CUC POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation , temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A mandatory pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2015** at the CUC Power Plant Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan. All potential proposers are required to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February, 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP -15- 007 CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than March 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**.

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to CUC. The proposal bond shall be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The payment and performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. The bond shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code*.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Plant Manager via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-011

AGINGAN WWTP TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of Agingan WWTP transformer in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of removal of existing transformer, installation and connection of new three-phase pad-mounted compartmental transformer with accessories and components to riser pole, installation of bollards and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United Stated of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project in contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-15-011, Agingan WWTP Transformer Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 20, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Manager, Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

Celebrated Little League team stripped of championship title

CHICAGO (AP)—A Little League team that captured the attention of the nation and the hearts of its hometown was stripped of its national title Wednesday after an investigation revealed that team officials had falsified boundaries so they could add ineligible players to the roster.

Only last summer, the all-black Jackie Robinson West team was the toast of Chicago and was honored with trips to San Francisco and to the White House.

But the sport's governing body announced that team officials had engaged in a Little League version of political gerrymandering. Instead of politicians redrawing district maps to pick up votes, it was local league officials who changed the boundaries that determined where players must live. And after learning that their scheme had been exposed, they scrambled to persuade surrounding leagues to go along with what they had done.

"This is so heartbreaking," said Stephen D. Keener, president and CEO of Little League International. "It is a sad day for a bunch of kids who we have come to really like ... who did nothing wrong." But "we cannot tolerate the actions of some of the adults involved here."

The organization suspended the manager, Darold Butler, and suspended the team from Little League tournament play until the local league's president and treasurer have been replaced. A district official who is believed to have helped change the boundaries was also removed.

"I'm super proud of the boys and what they did," Butler told the *Chicago Sun-Times*. "They always will be champions in my eyes, and they'll always be champions in a lot of people's eyes. They did it on the field in between the lines, and I'm the proudest coach in the world to be a part of a group of 13 boys like that."

AP

In this Nov. 6, 2014, file photo President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama pose with members of the Jackie Robinson West little league team in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

All of the team's victories were thrown out, meaning that the wins will be awarded to other teams. Mountain Ridge Little League, the team from Las Vegas that lost to Jackie Robinson West in the national championship game, will be awarded the title.

Parents were angered by the news, saying their children were being unfairly punished.

"The boys had no inside dealings ... about any borders, and I as a mother had no idea there were any (questions about) boundaries," said Venisa Green, who was driving her son, Brandon, to school Wednesday when they were "blindsided" by the news as it came over the radio.

"We weren't involved in anything that could have caused us to be stripped of our championship," said Brandon, appearing at a news conference with his mother.

Venisa Green said the move was especially disheartening because the team was part of efforts to keep children safe and prepare them for college in a community better known for gangs and drugs than any kind of achievement.

"What would you have us do, Little League, for them to be killed on the streets of Chicago?" she asked.

She wondered if the fact that the players were black had any role in the ruling, something that the Rev. Jesse Jackson and others questioned as well.

"Is this about boundaries or race?" Jackson asked.

Jackson did not discuss whether he blamed any league officials for what had happened, but in Washington, White House spokesman Josh Earnest suggested that it was the adults who let down the boys.

"The fact is, you know, some dirty dealing by some adults doesn't take anything away from the accomplishments of those young men," he said.

The Chicago Cubs said they would not ask that donations it made to the Little League team be returned.

"We can only imagine this was an extremely difficult and heart-wrenching day for these talented young athletes, but we hope they will continue to play this wonderful game of baseball for years to come. The game is counting on it," spokesman Julian Green said in a statement.

It was a stunning end to a story that began last summer as the team marched through the Little League tournament. Their odyssey ended with a loss to South Korea in the world championship game in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

For days, Chicago was enthralled by the story, in large part because the team was from the city's South Side, an area that has a reputation in much of the country for being synonymous with crime and gun violence. They were part of one of the most heartwarming World Series in Little League history, with the country rooting for Jackie Robinson West and a team from Philadelphia that had Mo'ne Davis, a star pitcher who was the first girl to appear in the series for a U.S. team since 2004.

When the Chicago team returned home, the boys were treated as conquering heroes. Thousands of people lined city streets to catch a glimpse of them as they were paraded by bus from their home field to a downtown park. The team was treated to a trip to a major league World Series game in San Francisco and then a visit with President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama at the White House.

Behind the scenes, Keener said, the investigation was creating a different story after a coach from a nearby suburb alleged that Jackie Robinson West had violated rules by poaching top suburban players.

The investigation, which was first reported by DNAinfo.com, appeared to end in December when the national organization said it had uncovered no violations. Officials said they would reopen the inquiry if new information surfaced. About that time, the organization learned of questions about boundary maps involving multiple leagues. The investigation resumed.

In an interview, Keener said Jackie Robinson West officials expanded the boundaries of their league at the expense of three neighboring leagues, so that the boundaries included the homes of several players on the team who would not otherwise have been eligible.

The investigation found that at least one district official who had helped redraw the map went to the other teams to ask that they go along with what the team had done, Keener said.

"They (said) `We know we took your territory. We shouldn't have done it, but will you give it to us' to essentially legitimize it," Keener said.

The other leagues refused, he said.

Ex-San Diego Chargers quarterback Jesse Freitas found dead

PETALUMA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities have identified a man found dead in a parked car in Northern California as former San Diego Chargers quarterback Jesse Freitas.

Petaluma police Lt. Dan Fish said Wednesday that an investigation found no indication of trauma or foul play.

The Santa Rosa Press Democrat reports (http://bit.ly/1AdbAwz) Freitas was found unresponsive in his vehicle Sunday by a family walking in a Petaluma neighborhood.

Police say the 63-year-old was fully clothed on his back with his left arm across his chest, as if he had been lying down to take a nap or rest.

Freitas grew up in San Mateo and was drafted by the Chargers in 1974. Over the next two seasons, he played in 13 games and threw eight touchdowns as a backup to Hall of Famer Dan Fouts.

Super Bowl hero (but not MVP) Malcolm Butler gets new truck

AP

New England Patriots cornerback Malcolm Butler poses with a Chevrolet pickup truck he was presented Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015, at a dealership in Norwood, Mass.

NORWOOD, Mass. (AP)—Malcolm Butler has intercepted the delivery of Tom Brady's new truck.

Brady earned the prize for winning the Super Bowl MVP for the third time. He led the Patriots to a 28-24 victory over the Seattle Seahawks in this year's game.

But New England didn't clinch the win until Butler intercepted a pass at the goal line in the closing minute. And Brady said he would give the truck to Butler, who was an undrafted rookie.

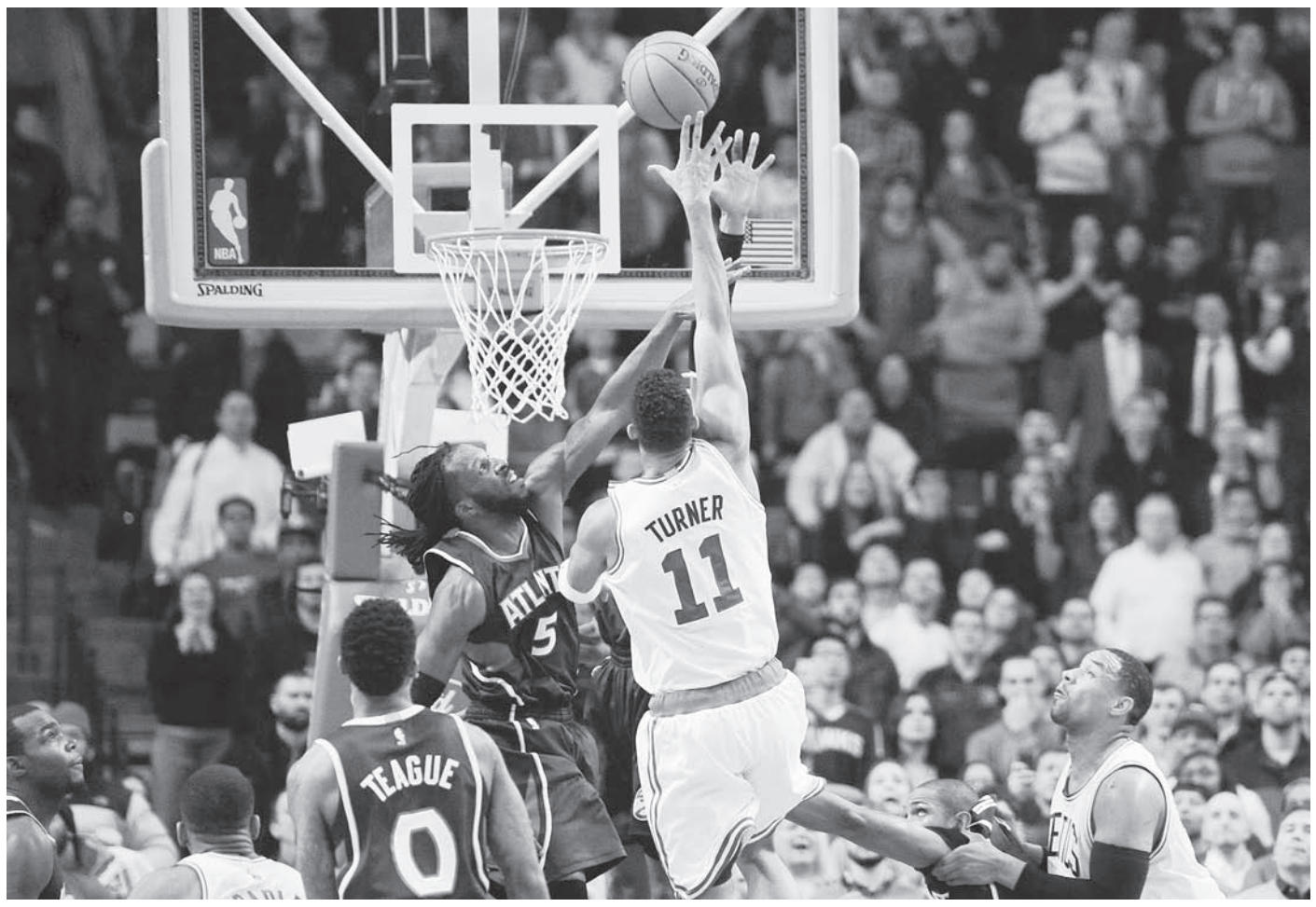
Butler took delivery of the shiny red truck at a Boston-area dealership on Tuesday afternoon.

Celtics rally, beat Hawks 89-88 on Turner's buzzer-beater

BOSTON (AP)— Evan Turner made a running scoop shot with 0.2 seconds left to give Boston its only lead of the game, and the Celtics sent the Atlanta Hawks to just their third loss of the calendar year, 89-88 on Wednesday night.

Jared Sullinger had 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Celtics, who have won four of five but still remain out of playoff position. Turner had 12 points, nine assists and seven rebounds.

Al Horford scored 22 points and added 12 rebounds for the Hawks, who followed a 19-game winning streak by losing four of their last seven.



AP

Boston Celtics' Evan Turner (11) shoots the game-winning basket over Atlanta Hawks' DeMarre Carroll (5) with 0.2 seconds left on the clock in the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, in Boston.

Warriors 94, Timberwolves 91

In Minneapolis, Andre Iguodala and Leandro Barbosa led a dominant effort from the Golden State Warriors' reserves and Klay Thompson hit a big 3-pointer down the stretch to close out a long road trip with a victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Iguodala scored just eight points on 4-for-4 shooting and Barbosa had 10 points, but they spearheaded an energized second unit that picked up the slack for their sluggish starters. Stephen Curry had 25 points on 9-for-23 shooting for Golden State (42-9), which goes into the All-Star break with the best record in the NBA.

Kevin Martin scored 21 points and Ricky Rubio had 18 points, nine rebounds and five assists for the Timberwolves (11-42), who rallied from a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter to tie the game.

Magic 89, Knicks 83

In Orlando, Fla., Nik Vucevic had 28 points and 18 rebounds, and the Orlando Magic held off the New York Knicks.

Victor Oladipo added 19 points and Willie Green 13 off the bench. It helped offset a third-quarter injury to starting forward Channing Frye, who left with a dislocated left index finger.

The victory stopped a two-game skid by the Magic. It also improved interim coach James Borrego's record to 2-2 since taking over for Jacque Vaughn, who was fired last week.

Jason Smith led the Knicks with 25 points. The Knicks played without forward Carmelo Anthony, who sat out their final game before the All-Star break with of a sore left knee.

Raptors 95, Wizards 93

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan hit a tiebreaking jump shot with 12 seconds left and the Toronto Raptors headed into the All-Star break on a winning note, beating the Washington Wizards.

Lou Williams scored 27 points, DeRozan had 23 and Kyle Lowry 13 for the Raptors, who have won seven of the past eight meetings with the Wizards, including all three this season.

John Wall scored 21 points, Drew Gooden had 10 points and 12 rebounds and Paul Pierce scored 17 for the Wizards, whose two-game winning streak was snapped. The loss was Washington's sixth in the past eight games.

Spurs 104, Pistons 87

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Danny Green scored 19 points and Tony Parker added 17, and the San Antonio Spurs easily brushed aside the Detroit Pistons.

Manu Ginobili added 13 points for San Antonio, which won this game amid little fanfare after coach Gregg Popovich reached 1,000 victories two days earlier. The Spurs held Detroit to 12 points in the first quarter and led comfortably through just about the entire second half.

D.J. Augustin scored 22 points for the Pistons and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 20.

Pacers 106, Pelicans 93

In New Orleans, David West and George Hill each scored 17 points and the Indiana Pacers went into the All-Star break with their fourth victory in their last five games, pounding the New Orleans Pelicans.

The Pelicans played without All-Star Anthony Davis, who missed his second straight game with sprained right shoulder, and without sharp-shooting forward Ryan Anderson, who missed his second game in a row with a sore right elbow.

Luke Babbitt scored 15 for New Orleans, which has lost three straight.

Thunder 105, Grizzlies 89

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 26 points and Russell Westbrook added 24 to help the Thunder defeat the Memphis Grizzlies.

Nick Collison had season highs of 15 points and nine rebounds and Dion Waiters added 11 points for Oklahoma City, which has won five of six heading into the All-Star break.

Zach Randolph scored 16 points and Jeff Green and Beno Udrih each added 11 for Memphis, which had won 10 of 11.

Bucks 111, Kings 103

In Milwaukee, Brandon Knight scored 20 points, powering a third-quarter surge that helped the Milwaukee Bucks to a victory over a Sacramento Kings team on the brink of yet another coaching change.

DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points and 19 rebounds for the Kings, a team about to make its second coaching change of the season. Before the game, the Kings and George Karl agreed to the framework of a deal for him to take over as coach, according to a person familiar with the negotiations. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the discussions were private.

That meant the game was the last for coach Tyrone Corbin. Karl will be Sacramento's third coach this season, as the Kings fired Michael Malone in December.

Cavaliers 113, Heat 93

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 18 points against his former Miami teammates and Cleveland had six others score in double figures as the Cavaliers beat the Heat for their 14th win in 15 games.

Timofey Mozgov scored 20 and Tristan Thomson 17 in Cleveland's final home game before the All-Star break. The Cavs will play at Chicago on Thursday before the season's extended respite.

Hassan Whiteside had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Heat, who were again without All-Star Dwyane Wade. Cavaliers forward Kevin Love sat out most of the second half after being poked in the right eye.

Mavericks 87, Jazz 82

In Dallas, J.J. Barea scored 15 of his season-high 22 points in the third quarter and the Dallas Mavericks went into the All-Star break by holding on for a victory against the Utah Jazz.

Starting while Rajon Rondo recovers from a broken orbital bone, Barea got a mild surprise when Monta Ellis joined him in the backcourt a day after being called doubtful with a left hip injury.

Gordon Hayward was limited to 12 points for Utah and had two of his six turnovers in the closing minutes with the Jazz trying to rally for their first three-game winning streak in a year. Trey Burke led Utah with 16 points.

Trail Blazers 102, Lakers 86

In Portland, Ore., LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and 12 rebounds and the Portland Trail Blazers extended the Los Angeles Lakers' road losing streak to a franchise-record 11 games.

Wesley Matthews added 20 points for the Blazers, who won their second straight before heading into the All-Star break.

It was the sixth straight overall loss for the struggling Lakers, who trailed by as many as 23 points. Los Angeles was hurt late in the third quarter when Nick Young appeared to hurt his left ankle on a jumper and did not return. Wayne Ellington led Los Angeles with 16 points and eight rebounds.

Clippers 110, Rockets 95

In Los Angeles, DeAndre Jordan had 24 points and 20 rebounds, Jamal Crawford and J.J. Redick each had 20 points, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Houston Rockets.

The Clippers played their third game without Blake Griffin, who will be sidelined at least three weeks after surgery for a staph infection in his right elbow and will be re-evaluated after that. Chris Paul had 12 assists and 12 points.

Jordan shot 6 for 8 from the field, extending his NBA-record streak to 39 consecutive games shooting at least 50 percent.

Corey Brewer scored 22 points and fellow reserve Josh Smith had 21 for the Rockets, who have lost 11 of their last 12 meetings with the Clippers.

NBA BRIEFS

Thompson, Harden will start for West in All-Star game

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson and Houston Rockets guard James Harden have been named starters for the Western Conference All-Star team. Warriors coach Steve Kerr, who will coach the team on Sunday in New York, made the announcement on Wednesday night. Thompson and Harden will replace the injured Kobe Bryant and Blake Griffin, who were voted in as starters by the fans. Thompson is averaging 22.1 points and shooting 44 percent from 3-point range for the Warriors, who have the league's best record at 42-9. He will start alongside fellow Splash Brother Stephen Curry. Harden is leading the league in scoring at 27.7 points per game. The West also had one more open spot in the starting lineup after Pelicans forward Anthony Davis pulled out with a strained right shoulder. Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki was named to replace him on the team and Kerr will set the starting lineup. The 36-year-old Nowitzki is averaging 18.3 points and 5.9 rebounds per game. He went to 11 straight All-Star games before missing in 2013. He went again last year.

Pelicans' Davis decides to sit out NBA All-Star game

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Anthony Davis has decided to sit out this Sunday's NBA All-Star game. The New Orleans Pelicans' power forward explained in a statement released by the club Wednesday night that he wants to focus on his recovery from a sprained right shoulder, which has sidelined him for two games. "After careful thought and consideration, I've decided I will not be participating in this year's NBA All-Star competitions," Davis said. "I want to thank the fans for voting me into the All-Star game and I am sorry I will not be able to play. "While I'm disappointed that I won't be able to compete this weekend, I'm still very excited about the opportunity to be a part of the All-Star events in New York and celebrate our game with some of the NBA's greatest figures." Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki was named to replace him on the team. Davis, now in his third season out of Kentucky and still only 21 years old, has averaged 24.5 points, 10.3 rebounds and 2.8 blocks per game, which leads the Pelicans in all three categories. Initially, Davis had planned on participating in both the game and All-Star Saturday night. But last Saturday night during a loss to Chicago, Davis lost his grip on the rim while completing an alley-oop dunk, falling about 7 feet horizontally to the hardwood. He tried to play for a couple minutes after the fall before taking himself out of the game and has not played since. Davis' announcement came after the Pelicans lost their third straight game, 106-93 to Indiana. Shortly before tip-off, Pelicans general manager Dell Demps presented Davis with a black All-Star jersey, though everyone watching understood that it wasn't clear if he would get to suit up.

Oleai track 'rehab work' moves forward

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Bidding for the resurfacing of the Oleai track facility is expected to begin next month. Contractors that will bid for the project need to follow the standards set by the International Association of Athletics Federations.

The resurfacing of the Oleai track and field facility is now moving forward with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. releasing a request for proposal for interested contractors to submit their respective designs.

NMHC deputy corporate director Jeanie P. Mafnas said they would expect interested bidders or contractors to begin submitting their architectural and engineering designs by the first week of March since the RFP was already published in the newspapers.

Interested contractors can now pick up proposal packets starting on Feb. 17, Tuesday, at the NMHC office in Garapan during regular working hours from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Mondays to Fridays.

NMHC will also hold a pre-proposal conference on March 3 at 10am at the NMHC office conference room.

In an earlier email, Mafnas said the resurfacing of the Oleai track facility is NMHC's only selected project for the year.

"We're still in the planning stages, so the project has not been out for bid. DPW is assisting NMSA in finalizing the scope of work for the RFP. NMSA (Northern Marianas Sports Association) prepared the plan with the help of DPW," said Mafnas.

Mafnas, in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*, added the resurfacing of the track could start 30 days after the bidding process.

"Once the A/E designs are complete we will again release an RFP for bidders that will do the rehab work. It will take 30 more days for the bidding process. Expect the rehab work to start by late March or early April."

Mafnas said NMHC is only the funding agency for the project after NMSA applied for the Community Development Block Grant.

"NMSA is the sub recipient of the grant and they are responsible for the preliminary work. The amount of the grant is $965,000," said Mafnas.

NMSA will be using 80 percent or $772,000 of the amount will be allocated for the project while the remaining 20 percent or $193,000 will be allotted for administrative work.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi, in a separate interview, welcomed the development as it would mean the resurfacing would start before the rainy season.

"We're pushing for April as our target to start with the project. We don't want to run into the rain season since it would delay every thing. Usually the rainy season starts in July and hopefully we're already done before the rains arrive."

He added that they are hoping to limit the number of bidders to three. "So it won't be that hard to choose. We will go with the best bidder and the contractor needs to follow the scope of work."

"The material must also be certified and must meet standards set by the International Association of Athletics Federations. The track, before it got damaged, is the only eight-lane Level II facility in the Micronesian region and we want to bring it back to its original form," added Rogolifoi.

NMSA will have a locally hired construction manager, who will oversee the entire project, while the expert is the one that they are going to tap off-island. The expert can either come from any European country or the USA.

The expert will watch over if the resurfacing is done according to IAAF standards and procedure.

NMSA would close the facility once resurfacing of the track begins and once the project is done they would implement stricter rules and other guidelines for public use.

NMSA personnel will also take care of maintaining the track where the surface will be cleaned every three to four months to keep the dust and other unnecessary materials from sticking.

At least two months is needed for the actual process of putting the adhesive and laying out the track. The winning contractor needs to make sure the adhesive dries accordingly before putting down the new rubber surface.

The new track oval, once completed, will have a light blue color and not the usual pinkish-red hue.

MATANSA

From Page 32

Allen scored in the 26th and 29th minute, respectively, to put Shirley's on top at halftime, 2-1.

A goal from Koisuke Sato in the 60th minute tied the match, 2-2, but Shirley's regained the upper hand off Jennifer Perena's shot three minutes later. Muneaki Arai forced the second deadlock with his goal in the 70th, while Tan broke the tie and handed Shirley's its first win after lighting up the board in the 88th.

Meanwhile, in Division 1, Tan Holdings improved its record to 2-0 for the top spot after beating Korean Football Association on Saipan.

Martin Jambor tallied the lone goal in the second match of the weekend.

In the first match, Wild Bill's, which absorbed a 1-5 debut loss to Tan Holdings, barged into the win column after a 2-0 victory over Paire.

Youth player Tanapon Unsa and Evan Belcher drilled the goals for Wild Bill's.

In the third game in Division 1, MP United and Inter Godfather's engaged in a draw, 3-3.

Joe Miller opened the scoring for MP United with his goal in the third minute, while Jireh Yobech also hit the board in the first half (23 rd) to lift the team to a 2-0 advantage. However, MP United failed to keep the driver's seat at the break as Arkie Reusora fired back in the 39th minute, while Peter Loken made the equalizer six minutes later.

Loken also scored Inter Godfather's third goal in the second half, while Miller duplicated his feat to force the draw.

ROCBALL

From Page 32

first three sets, 14-6, 12-8, 14-3. However, they could not get the automatic win, as Rocball rules state the leading squad must also prevail in the fourth set to take the victory.

In overtime, the Teachers needed to win only once and they did, 7-2, to keep their title bid alive.

The Teachers prevented the Veterans from wrapping up the series as the former bounced back from a sorry loss in Game 3.

The Veterans, which won Game 2 after juicing out the Teachers last week, 43-37, moved one win away from clinching the championship when they pulled off a come-from-behind victory in Game 3. The Veterans were way behind in Game 3, 34-51, but saved their season when they eked out a 13-12 win in the fourth set. The Teachers dominated the Veterans in the first three frames, 13-8, 13-4, 13-9, before losing the fourth.

Since the Teachers were ahead, the Veterans were pressed to win twice in extension and managed to get the needed wins to boost their title bid. The Veterans were ahead in the first overtime set, 5-2, and took the victory after scoring a goal. The team to score a goal first in overtime regardless of the game's scores automatically wins the set. If no goal is made, the squad to score seven points first off a good first serve gets the win.

In the second set, the Veterans did it again, knocking in a goal while leading by just two, 6-4.

Earlier in Game 2, the Teachers also bagged two overtime wins to even up the series, 1-1. The Teachers sent Game 2 to overtime when it earned a 12-4 victory in the fourth set. The Teachers also won the second set, 13-2, but since the Veterans took the first and third by double-digit margins, 14-4, 13-3, the latter had the lead in regulation, 34-32.

Hanging on to a 2-point cushion, the Veterans needed only one win in overtime, but failed to deliver as they were really off in the extended sets. The Teachers won the two overtime sets in convincing fashions, 8-1, 8-0.

Meanwhile, the Veterans' Mitcaf Tipengeni is so far the series' heavy hitter, scoring 34 points off 14 aces and two goals (each goal is equivalent to 3 points).

Jr. players set semis date with coaches

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Junior players Robbie Schorr and Moris Villanueva will have tough dates on Valentine's Day as they collide with the two tennis coaches on the island in the semifinals of the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic.

Schorr is paired against top-ranked Luke Beling of Saipan Tennis Academy and they will duel for the first finals berth of the men's singles at 8am this Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The 13-year-old Schorr made it to the Final Four after outlasting Luther Lizama, 7-6 (retired). Beling, on the other hand, swept Dong Min Lee, 6-0, 6-0, to book a semis ticket in the upper half of the bracket.

In the lower half, Villanueva will challenge long-time CNMI national coach Jeff Race for the other finals berth at 9:30am tomorrow.

Race marched into the semifinals after downing junior player Michael Ren, 6-2, 6-1, while Villanueva took the long route to the Final Four after surviving fellow junior player Colin Ramsey. Villanueva dropped the opening set, 4-6, before sweeping the last two, 6-4, 6-3, to arrange a semis duel against Race.

In other results, three players bagged semis spots in the boys U12 singles.

Ji Min Woo notched the first slot, following his 6-2, 6-3 victory over Chris Kim last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts. The two other semifinalist earned their semis tickets at the AMP tennis courts with Eubin Park edging Sean Lee, 7-5, 7-5, and Rintaro Miyawaki slipping past Eugene Park, 3-6, 6-4, 19-17.

Jamin Elliot and Brian Kim will square off tomorrow for the fourth and last semis seat and the right to face Woo in the Final Four.

The semis matches of other divisions will also be played this weekend.

Inaugural Marianas Muscle tourney next month

The Commonwealth Bodybuilding Federation will hold the inaugural Marianas Muscle Bodybuilding Competition on March 7, 3pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The tournament is open to all amateur bodybuilders and the contest will follow International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness rules.

Men's and women's bodybuilding, men's and women's physique, junior men's and women's bodybuilding, and junior men's and women's physique will be the divisions that are offered.

The juniors must be 15 to 17 years old. Trophies will be presented to the winners in each division.

Entry forms are available at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium office in Oleai. All forms must be submitted on or before March 5.

For more information on contest entry and rules, call John Davis at 7899211. ***(Jon Perez)***

CEPEDA

From Page 32

twice with a double and a triple while Saralu, despite striking out in the fourth, had two runs and an RBI single in bottom of the first in his 2-for-4 batting.

Sablan pitched four innings in the start, giving up four runs, one earned, on four hits, while striking out three batters and walking two more. Byron Kaipat closed out for the Brewers allowing the Starz's Chad Atalig to cross home plate on an error by Alepuyo.

Kaipat struck out Robert Camacho then Tim Cruz got on base on an error by shortstop Jesse Brel. He then forced Jonathan Tenorio to an infield fly and walked Wally Emul to put runners at first and second.

Kaipat then caught Jesse Sablan swinging on his seventh pitch to end the game stranding Emul and Cruz on base.

Tenorio, who entered in the bottom of the fifth, and Anthony Castro shared pitching duties for the Starz combining for three earned runs on 11 hits with three walks and six strikeouts.

Action continues today with the Jets hoping to nail its first win this season when they face the Fielders at 7pm also at the Tan Ko ballfield.

On Monday, Feb. 16, the Yankees take on the Jets in a make-up game of their rained out match last Jan. 21. The Brewers will also play a make-up contest against the Falcons on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

Blue Haus nears regular season sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Blue Haus moved one win away from sweeping the regular season of the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League after outlasting KB Hite, 98-90, last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The unbeaten Blue Haus now has six victories and will try to keep its perfect record on Monday when it faces winless Boomers (0-4). Regardless of the results of its last game, Blue Haus is assured of the No. 1 spot in the team standings and the automatic semis berth, leaving the six remaining teams to battle for the three other Final Four slots.

KB Hite, which fell to an even 2-2 mark, had a chance to hand Blue Haus its first loss of the season after grabbing the lead in the second quarter. However, Blue Haus regrouped quickly and withstood KB Hite's repeated comeback bids to stay undefeated in the seven-team field.

KB Hite made one final push when it clawed its way back from a 15-point deficit, 68-84, moving within 4 points, 82-86. The Boy Garcia-coached team launched a 14-2 run in five minutes after Blue Haus tried to blow the game wide open with a 10-1 scoring run in the first three minutes of the fourth. Marlon Sison, Randy Mungcal, and Ed Pangelinan knocked in one triple apiece in KB Hite's rally to threaten Blue Haus.

However, Blue Haus stopped the bleeding after drawing fouls in their next two offensive sets and Edwin Santos and Junar Guiab made splits for an 88-82 lead, while KB Hite attempted from downtown anew and this time had a few misses.

An error from Romy Verano, who tried to save the ball from going out but it landed on the wrong hands, which led to an Ernie Moises fastbreak layup, upping Blue Haus' lead to 8, entering the final two minutes of the match. KB Hite fired blanks anew from the rainbow arc on its next two plays, while Guiab canned a pair of free throws to seal it for Blue Haus.

Guiab top-scored for Blue Haus with his 30 points, making up for the absence of Edsel Mendoza. Moises chipped in 19, while Tony Diaz and Santos contributed 15 and 13, respectively. Mungcal led KB Hite with his 29 points, Pangelinan added 23, and Sison tallied 13.

In the first game, Bammy's Restaurant bagged its second win after routing Boomers, 93-77.

Four Bammy's players broke into double figures en route to the easy win. Jun Tabora tallied 23 points for Bammy's, which got 17 from Jun Alipio and 15 and 10 from Rodney Catalla and Alex Ocampo, respectively.

Dennis Cortez suited up for the Boomers for the first time and had a team-high 23 points, while Arman Anasan recorded 17.

First Game

Bammy's 93 – J. Tabora 23, Alipio 17, Catalla 15, Ocampo 10, Sampang 6, Saplan 5, D. Tabora 4, De Guzman 4, Vargas 2, Enriquez 2.

Boomers 77 – Cortez 23, Anasan 17, Usi 12, Echavez 6, Buniag 5, Dela Cruz 4, Salazar 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-17, 42-31, 68-47, 93-47.

Second Game

Blue Haus 98 – Guiab 30, Moises 19, Diaz 15, Santos 13, Macoto 8, Buenabajo 6, Fernandez 5.

KB Hite 90 – Mungcal 29, Pangelinan 23, Sison 13, Verano 7, Yalung 4, Morales 3, Garcia 2, Duenas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-20, 49-40, 74-67, 98-90.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Junar Guiab is fouled by KB Hite's Art Montes, partly hidden, during the third quarter of their game in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

M-LEAGUE FIXTURES

MEN'S DIVISION 1

Pos	Team	MP	W	D	L	Pts	GA	GF	GD
1	Tan Holdings	2	2	0	0	6	6	1	5
2	MP United	2	1	1	0	4	7	3	1
3	Paire	2	1	0	1	3	1	2	-1
4	Wild Bills 2	1	0	1	3	3	5	-2	
5	Inter Godfathers	2	0	1	1	1	3	4	-1
6	KFAS	2	0	0	2	0	0	5	-5
DIVISION 2									
1	Matansa	2	2	0	0	6	7	2	5
2	Shirley's	2	1	1	0	4	6	5	1
3	World Resort	2	0	2	0	2	3	3	0
4	Thundercats	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	0
5	Sun Palace	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
6	Kanoa	2	0	1	1	1	3	5	-2
7	WNT	2	0	0	2	0	1	8	-7

WOMEN'S DIVISION

1	Shirley's	1	1	0	0	3	4	0	4
2	Matansa	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	3
3	Independents	2	1	0	1	3	3	5	-2
4	MPU	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	0
5	Tan Holdings	1	0	1	0	1	3	3	0
6	Paire	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	-4
7	Kanoa	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	-1

UPCOMING GAMES

Sunday Feb. 14
12pm Wild Bills vs MP United
2pm Inter Godfathers vs KFAS
4pm Tan Holdings vs Paire
6pm Shirley's vs Sun Palace
8pm Thundercats vs Matansa
Tuesday Feb. 17
7:30pm Paire vs Tan Holdings (women's)

SSHS Manta Band to host Valentine's Day Fun Run

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

The award-winning Saipan Southern High School Manta Band will be hosting a Valentine's Day Fun Run tomorrow at 6:45am starting at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The Fun Run event's registration starts at 6am and the first 300 participants will receive a complimentary T-shirt. Raffle drawings will also be held.

Registration fee is $15 for adults and $10 for children ages 12 and under.

Cash prizes up to $50 will also be awarded for the top finishers in the men, women, boy, and girl divisions.

According to SSHS Band instructor William DeWitt, all proceeds will go toward supporting the Manta Band in raising money for the Los Angeles International Music Festival competition in June.

The school will go head to head with five other critically acclaimed high school wind ensembles if they raise the much-needed funds.

IT&E, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Cross-Fit, Pacific Sub Sea, Gold's Gym, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Java Bakery, Coral Ocean Point, Island Apparel, Mariana Ocean, and Saipan Ice are bronze sponsors of the event. PHI Pharmacy and Hyatt Regency Saipan are silver sponsors. The Valentine's Day event's gold sponsors are JC Tenorio Enterprises, All Star Sporting Goods, and Athlete's Foot. Brabu Pharmacy is the title sponsor.

People can register online and learn more information by visiting the event's Facebook event page, "SSHS Manta Band Valentines Day 5k Fun Run."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JC Tenorio Enterprises signs on as a Gold Sponsor for the Manta Ray Band's Valentines Fun Run. Clarence Tenorio Sr. hands a check to Band Club president Allen Park and vice president Emily Dewitt.

BANMI to hold tryouts, meeting on Saturday

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will be holding open tryouts for the CNMI boys and girls national teams in time for the upcoming Under-15 Micronesian Basketball Tournament.

Tomorrow, Saturday, will be the first of several weekend tryouts at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The boys tryouts will be from 1pm to 3pm, while the girls will take the court from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

Players are encouraged to be at the Ada Gym 30 minutes before the tryouts start and bring their own water bottle, towel, extra shirts, and a pair of basketball sneakers.

The training schedule and other documents will be handed out after the tryout session.

Saipan will be hosting the MBT from June 21 to 27 where teams from Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands will be competing.

In other news, BANMI will also hold its general membership meeting on the same day, Feb. 14, at 10am at the Ada Gym conference room.

Agenda includes the election of new officers, development plan, and events and competition calendar for 2015.

For more information, call Elias Rangamar at 234-6672 or 989-5225, or email elias-rangamar@hotmail.com. ***(BANMI)***

Celebrated Little League team stripped of championship title

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Blue Haus nears regular season sweep

PAGE 31

Matansa, Tan Holdings take early lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Matansa Football Club and Tan Holdings FC zoomed to the lead in their respective divisions in the M-League after beating separate foes last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Matansa played in the third game last weekend and downed Kanoa FC, 3-1. Young Ha Hwang, Kamrul Kamrul, and Jung Soo Choo scored for Matansa, while Jherico Tiamzon hit the lone goal for Kanoa.

With its 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record, Matansa is on top of Division 2, leading Shirley's (1-1-0), World Resort (0-2-2), Thundercats (0-1-0), Sun Palace (0-1-0), Kanoa (0-1-1), and CNMI Women's National Team (0-0-2).

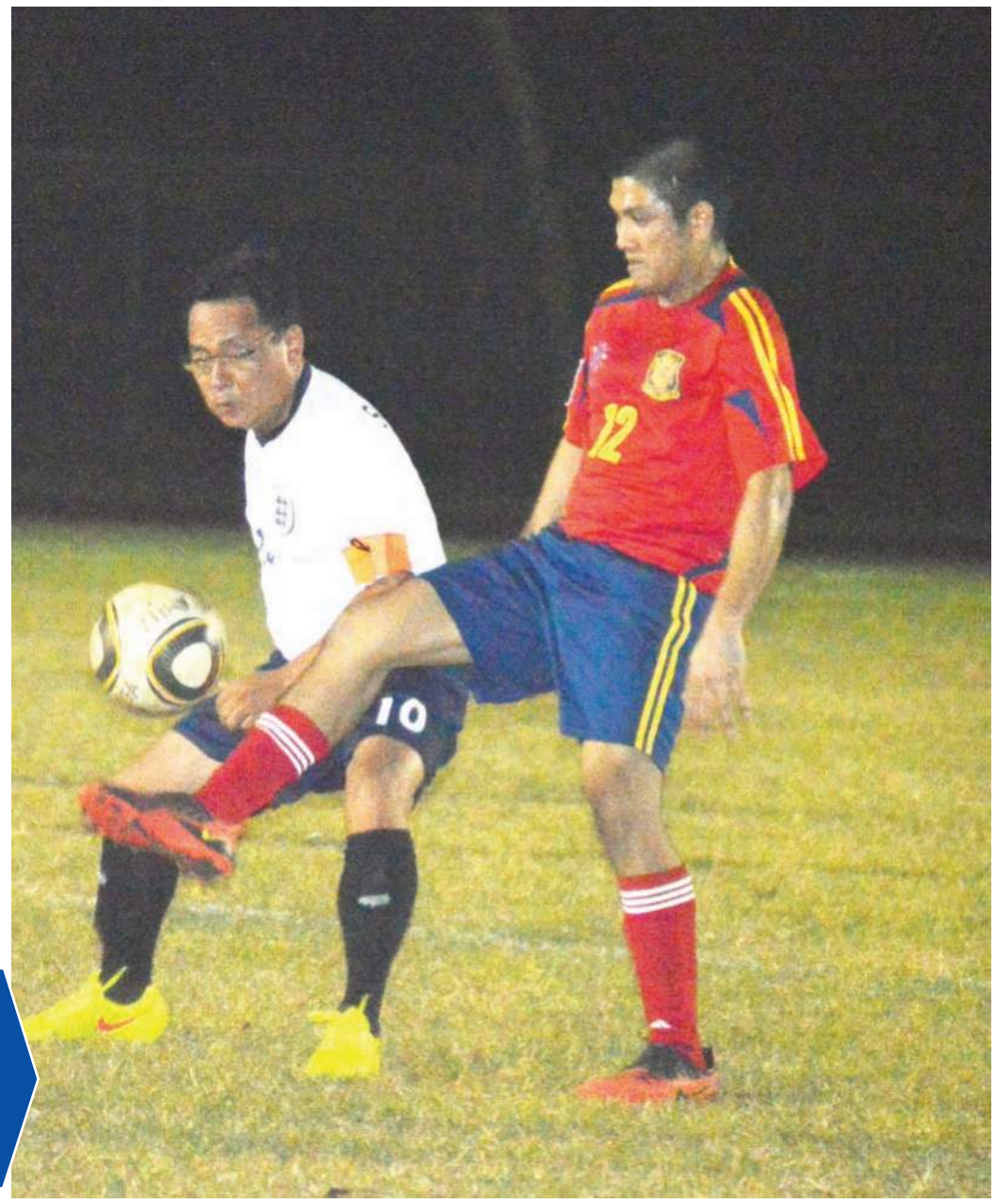
In other results in Division 2 last Sunday, Sun Palace and World Resort settled for a draw, 1-1, while Shirley's edged the CNMI Women's National Team last Wednesday, 4-3.

World Resort, which also drew its debut match this season against Shirley's 2-2, got its only goal against Sun Palace from Hoin Ryu, who it the board in the 67th minute. Sun Palace, on the other hand, posted its first goal in the opening half courtesy of Hak Yun Ko's shot in the third minute.

In the Shirley's-Women's National tiff, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan scored the game-winning goal two minutes before the match wrapped up. Three different players nailed the other goals for Shirley's with Fradel Sedillo connecting in the first half to keep the team in the game, behind by only one.

Renita Fleming and Sarah

See MATANSA on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
World Resort's Dennis Vinas stretches to keep the ball, while a Sun Palace player stays close on defense during the first half of their Division 1 game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Rocball finale down to rubber match

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Veterans and Teachers will be playing in a deciding Game 5 tomorrow as the former forced a deadlock in their title series in the 2014-2015 Saipan Rocball League.

The Teachers forced a 2-2 standoff in the best-of-five championship affair after posting a 57-32 overtime win in Game 4 yesterday at the Marianas High School last week. The Teachers needed an extra set to force a rubber as it dropped the fourth set, 10-13. After regulation, the Teachers were still up, 50-30, as they swept the

See ROCBALL on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
J.R. Gechig, seen here playing for Out-of-Shape in last season's Rocball league, is now with the Veterans, who will be challenging the Teachers for this year's championship tomorrow at 1pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Cepeda fans 12, Brewers still unbeaten

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vince Cepeda pitched four shutout innings in relief, striking out 12 in the process to lift the GSM Brewers to a 10-5 win over the North Starz in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League on Wednesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Cepeda, the current strikeout leader with a total of 31, replaced starter Lenny Sablan in the top of the fifth and held the Starz to two hits, while walking two batters and stranding three base runners.

Cepeda's 12 strikeouts is the second most in a game this season where the helped the defending champions to a fourth straight win. The North Starz dropped to 1-4, its lone win 10-4 decision against the Jets on Jan. 26.

Falcons ace Peter Lieto holds the current season-high record when he fanned 18 batters in their team's 10-4 victory over the still winless Jets on Jan. 16.

Tyrone Omar, Jun Rabauliman, and Nokki Saralu supported Cepeda's pitching with their bats to lead the Brewers' .323 average in the game.

Omar went 3-for-4 with one run scored and an RBI single in the third where he drove in catcher Pat Alepuyo, who had a triple.

Rabauliman, 2-for-4, scored

See CEPEDA on Page 30

JON PEREZ
GSM Brewers pitcher Vince Cepeda, left, warms up while first baseman Byron Kaipat looks on in their game against the North Starz in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League on Wednesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko' Palacios Baseball Field. Kaipat would later replace Cepeda to preserve the win for the defending champions.